DURANGO INTERAGENCY DISPATCH AREA
RESOURCE BRIEFING PACKAGE

Valid 2006/2007

CONTENTS

Welcome to southwest Colorado and the Durango Dispatch Zone. The Durango Dispatch Center (DRC) is an interagency dispatch center responsible for incidents and resource mobilization coordination for the San Juan Public Lands (San Juan NF - USFS and San Juan Field Office -BLM), Ute Mountain Ute Reservation, Southern Ute Reservation, Mesa Verde National Park, Southwest Colorado counties, and Colorado State Forest Service.

This packet was prepared to serve as an orientation and briefing tool for incoming resources to the Durango Zone and is intended as a general reference. Incoming resources will receive unit specific briefing upon their arrival. The briefing includes information relative to each unit within the Durango Dispatch Zone, the Durango Dispatch Center, safety, and communications. This packet includes information pertaining to:

Local Unit Fuels	**Average Weather Conditions**	**Safety**
Important Contacts	**Aviation Procedures**	**Communications**
Average Fire Behavior	**Initial Attack Protocol**	

GENERAL AREA INFORMATION:

The DRC zone is the SW corner of Colorado. Our area extends from: WEST - Utah state line; EAST to Wolf Creek Pass on the east, and from the SOUTH -New Mexico state line, NORTH to the San Juan NF/BLM (about 20 miles N of the town of Dove Creek)

The zone covers a broad range of climates, fuels and topography. Major fuel types across the zone include: Sage, Pinyon-Juniper, Gambel Oak, Ponderosa Pine, Mixed Conifer, and Spruce-Fir. Refer to each district's narrative for detailed fuel and topography information.

Air resources: The DRC has two contracted exclusive use Type 3 helicopters. One is based at Hesperus Helibase and the other is based on the Ute Mtn Ute Reservation in Towaoc. Also there is a Type 2 exclusive use helicopter based at the Durango / LaPlata Airport. All requests for air resources should be directed to DRC via radio or phone (970) 385-1324.

Weather: Monsoonal flow provides the main source of fire ignitions and also provides the moisture that limits fire activity. The monsoons typically move into the area in the beginning of July. For the first half of July, lightning storms associated with the monsoons are typically dry and result in many fire ignitions. Following the dry months of May and June, ignitions in this time period may be the most active. In mid-July the thunderstorms become a daily occurrence in the afternoon. Once the thunderstorms produce more moisture, fire activity is reduced. However, moisture is not uniform across the zone and fires may continue to be very active during this time, especially at the lower elevations. The monsoons generally continue until the end of August or beginning of September. Typically, the zone experiences a drying trend from the beginning of September until the end of October. Fires occurring during this period may be active.

Contact Numbers are as follows:

Office	Phone	Fax or Cell
Durango Dispatch Center (DRC) **15 Burnett Court Durango, CO 81301**	**970-385-1324 (24 hr)**	**F-970-385-1386**
C**olumbine Public Lands Office** 367 Pearl St Bayfield CO 81122	970-884-2512	F-970-884-2428
Pagosa Public Lands Office 180 Pagosa St Pagosa Spgs CO 81147	970-264-2268	F-970-264-1538
Dolores Public Lands Office 100 N. 6th St Dolores CO 81321	970-882-7296	F-970-882-6841
Ute Mountain Ute Agency (UMA) BIA Fire Mgt Bldg, 102 Chief Green St, Towaoc, CO 81334	970-565-4789	F-970-565-8838
Southern Ute Agency (SUA) 575 CR 517, Ignacio, CO 81137	970-563-4571	F-970-563-9515
Mesa Verde National Park (MVP) Mesa Verde, CO 81330	970-529-5048	F-970-529-5046
Colorado State Forest Service (COS) Ft Lewis College Durango, CO 81301 District Forester: Dan Ochocki	970-247-5250 same	F-970-247-5252
Anasazi Heritage Center/CANM 27501 Hwy 184, Dolores CO 81321	970-882-5600	F-970-882-7035

Local Police and Fire Dispatch

Archuleta County Dispatch	970-264-2131	F-970-264-2551
Central Dispatch (Durango/La Plata county)	970-385-2900	F-970-385-2908
Cortez/Montezuma Dispatch	970-565-8454	F-970-565-3991
Dolores County Dispatch	970-677-2257	F-970-677-2880

Durango Interagency Dispatch Center (DRC)

(970-385-1324)

DRC GENERAL INFORMATION

The Durango Dispatch Center staff's mission is to support field operations, in particular fire management operations for several federal and local land management agencies, including:

- The San Juan Public Lands Center (Columbine, Dolores and Pagosa Zones) — CO-SJF/CO-SJD
- Mesa Verde National Park — CO-MVP
- Southern Ute Agency — CO-SUA
- Ute Mountain Agency — CO-UMA
- Colorado State – Durango District — CO-DRS
  - Archuleta County — CO-AUX
  - Dolores County — CO-DLX
  - Hinsdale County — CO-HIX
  - La Plata County — CO-LPX
  - Mineral County — CO-MLX
  - Montezuma County — CO-MNX
  - San Juan County — CO-SJX

The DRC is overseen by a local board consisting of fire managers from the above mentioned units and is located just southwest of Durango, Colorado on State Highway 160 West. The address is 15 Burnett Court, Durango CO 81301, in the San Juan Public Lands Center, (the red brick building at the top of the hill). To access our office during regular business hours, enter the building through the front doors, and check in with the front desk personnel. During non-business hours, proceed to the door on the south side of the building and knock on the windows to the left (third window is best). If our office is staffed, someone will answer. Please contact us if you have any questions, comments or concerns. Contact us at:

24 hour phone….(970) 385-1324
FAX……...(970) 385-1386
e-mail……..codrc@dms.nwcg.gov
DRC Web Site…http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/fire/rmacc.html (select Durango Dispatch)

DRC is staffed seven days a week during fire season, with normal operating hours from 0700 – 1800. Extended hours coincide with periods of increased fire activity.

Functional areas within our office are logistics, intelligence, aircraft, and initial attack, (See the Durango Interagency Mobilization Guide for more area specific information). When contacting our office, let the person know what information you are looking for and you will be directed to the person best able to assist you.

Incident response: DRC supports incidents locally (including neighbors/bordering units), regionally and nationally. Locally, we mobilize resources through established local procedures with unit fire managers using the closest available resource concept. A contingent of resources will be maintained within DRC unit(s) that have Initial Attack potential.

Incidents are prioritized and resources are allocated to incidents based on the following prioritization:

1. Potential to destroy or harm human life
2. Potential to destroy property

Resources: All resources (Engine & Crews) are required to notify Durango Dispatch, by radio or phone, of their status.

1. Start of shift, departure to an assignment, arrival at the assignment, any relocations and end of shift.
2. Information required for each of the above (except end of shift) is, time of departure, location of assignment, ETA to assignment, and time out of service at end-of-shift.

Durango Dispatch normally will not go out-of-service until all personnel are clear of the field, or in camp. For your safety, if someone does not notify Durango Dispatch that they are clear of the field, a search for those individuals will be initiated to determine their status.

Aircraft will follow established notification and flight-following protocols.

In brief, the DRC area can normally put together 1 – Type 2 Initial Attack Crews, we have 2 – Type 3 Incident Management Teams and 15 federal engines from all units. Our aviation resources consist of two contract exclusive use Type 3 Helicopters. One is based at Hesperus Helibase, and the other on the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation in Towaoc. There is a Type 2 exclusive use Helicopter based at Durango Air Tanker Base at the Durango/La Plata Airport.

Initial Attack Protocols:

- Initial Attack (IA) response is direct from resource to the DRC and back. Contact DRC via radio or phone.
- DRC will mobilize all resources to incident.
- Incident Commander (IC) will provide fire size-up information and make notification of the ICs name and any transitions that occur to both dispatch and resources at the fire.
- The IC is responsible for collecting and documenting the names of all resources on their incident (this includes individuals, equipment, etc.).
- Orders for additional resources will be through DRC by a single designated Point Of Contact for the incident.
- ICs will provide DRC current and updated fire status for the purpose of resource allocation and incident prioritization.

Intelligence:

Fire Reports Protocol: If you initial attack a fire and act as incident commander please submit a fully completed "Initial Attack Size Up" form (see attached) to the local fire management office for fire reporting purposes.

Fire Intelligence Reporting Requirements:

Unit Morning Resource Availability Report
A standard form for all field units will be used to status resources daily. This information must be received by DRC no later than 1000 hours.

Daily Fire Management Briefing: (Broadcast daily at 1000 hrs)
Morning Fire Weather forecast, to include:
*large scale discussion
*Zone 207 discussion
*Zone 207 specifics (hi\lo temps, RH, winds, etc.)

Local and Area Initial Attack Resource Status
*Helicopters (DRO)
*Air Tankers (DRO, GJC, ABQ)
*Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) (DRO, GJC, BJC)
*Smoke Jumpers (GJC)
*Lead Planes/Air Attack
*Type 1 Crews
*Type 2 Crews
*Type 3 Incident Management Teams
*Local (DRC), Regional (RMA), and National fire activity and resource needs.

Afternoon fire weather forecast: (Broadcast daily at 1600 hrs.)
*Zone 207 specifics
*Afternoon Indices
Afternoon resource status will include any changes to the morning report. If there are none, a statement to that effect will be made.

Spot Weather Forecasts
DRC will electronically submit spot weather forecasts to the Grand Junction NWS office for incidents. See the Spot Weather Forecast form, next page.

GRAND JUNCTION SPOT FORECAST REQUEST

Required Elements = *

PROJECT NAME

*Project Name:

☐ Wildfire ☐ WFU ☐ HAZMAT

☐ Prescribed Fire ☐ SAR

Ignition Time: ☐ Mountain Local Time

Date:

REQUESTING AGENCY

*Requesting Agency:

*Requesting Official: DRC

*Phone Number: 970-385-1324 Ext.

FAX Number: 970-385-1386

Contact Person:

REASON FOR SPOT FORECAST REQUEST

*Must choose either Wildfire or one of the Non-Wildfire reasons

☐ **Wildfire**

Non-Wildfire

☐ Under the Interagency Agreement for Meteorological Services (USFS, BLM, NPS, USFWS, BIA).

☐ State, tribal or local fire agency working in coordination with a federal participant in the Interagency Agreement for Meteorological Services.

LOCATION

*Lat:

*Lon:

7.5' Quad:

Legal (T/R): ☐ CO ☐ UT

Top Bottom

*Elevation:

Drainage:

*Aspect:

Size: (Acres)

FUEL

Type:

Sheltering

☐ Full

☐ Partial

☐ Unsheltered

OBSERVATIONS

Place	Elev	Time	Wind	Temp	Wetbulb	RH	Dewpt.	Sky/Weath

PRIMARY FORECAST ELEMENTS

TDA TNT TMR (Today, Tonight, Tomorrow)

☐ ☐ ☐ Clouds / Weather

☐ ☐ ☐ Temperature

☐ ☐ ☐ Relative Humidity

☐ ☐ ☐ 20-FT Winds

☐ ☐ ☐ Smoke Dispersion

☐ ☐ ☐ Clearing Index (UT only)

☐ ☐ ☐ Haines Index

☐ ☐ ☐ LAL (UT only)

☐ ☐ ☐ Mixing Height

☐ ☐ ☐ Transport Winds

REMARKS

Columbine District

The Columbine Zone can be divided into four zones. The Pinyon-Juniper zone (6,000 – 7,500 ft.), Ponderosa Pine-Gambel oak zone (7,000 – 9,000 ft.), Mixed Conifer zone (8,000 – 10,000 ft.) and the Spruce-Fir zone (9,500 – 11,500 ft.).

Pinyon-Juniper (PJ) Zone – The lowest elevations of the zone are mainly composed of PJ fuels. Federal lands in this area are a mix of Forest Service and BLM, and the area as a whole is a patchwork of federal and private land, which brings multiple agencies (including local volunteer fire dept's) into play. Generally, fire behavior in the PJ zone is either all or nothing. Fires will generally be single tree events with minimal fire behavior, or active crown fires with large flame lengths and high rates of spread. Wind is the main determining factor influencing fire behavior. Winds 15-20 mph or greater generally trigger very active fire behavior. In many cases, active fire behavior only occurs for one burn period due to variable fuel continuity and diurnal weather changes. The most successful suppression tactic is to establish a solid anchor point when fire behavior is very active, and then directly flank the fire when fire behavior moderates. Gas wells are present throughout this area and should be addressed during any fire. Dependable repeaters in the PJ area includes Pargin and Menefee (FS) and Sandoval, Spring Creek, and Bridgetimber (on Southern Ute's)

Ponderosa Pine-Gambel Oak Zone – The Columbine District is much more densely populated than either of the other districts, and the Ponderosa Pine-Gambel Oak zone is where the majority of the population resides. Therefore urban interface issues are of much greater concern in this area than our other zones. **Moderate to steep terrain characterizes a majority of the pine-oak zone.** Generally, fire behavior is moderate under the pines with some isolated pockets of high fire behavior due to fuel jackpots and topography variances. Fires in the Gambel oak typically exhibit low to moderate fire behavior. **However**, oak that has been frost damaged, oak on steep slopes, or pre-heated by a fire can exhibit extreme fire behavior, especially with strong winds. Additionally – the Missionary Ridge fire of 2002 burned over 70,000 acres during the course of six weeks, a great deal of this fire can be viewed from the road north of Durango, and all around Vallecito Reservoir area. Fuel moistures and ERC's were at record lows/highs for much of the fire and extreme fire behavior was exhibited in much of the Ponderosa Pine and Gambel Oak. So, while the pine/oak fire behavior tends to exhibit moderate fire behavior, in a dry year things can change rapidly. Remember to carefully consider fuel conditions, time of day, and expected weather when determining the tactics you will use. The main repeaters for this area are Pargin, Grassy, Kennebec, Devil Mountain, and Missionary.

Mixed Conifer Zone – The Mixed Conifer zone makes up a large portion of the Columbine District. Vegetation within this zone varies greatly based on aspect, slope, and elevation. A mixture of Ponderosa Pine, Gambel Oak, Douglas Fir, White Fir, and Aspen make up the over story. The relative mixture is determined mostly by elevation and aspect. The lower, drier mixed conifer has a predominance of Ponderosa Pine, Douglas Fir and Gambel Oak and is referred to as warm-dry mixed conifer. Fire behavior in warm-dry mixed conifer is of mixed severity. Moderate surface fire, occasional torching, and passive crowning occur during moderate conditions. During more extreme conditions active crowning should be expected. The cool wet mixed conifer occurs at higher elevations and on more shaded aspects. Species composition consists of Douglas Fir, White Fir, and Aspen. Long fire return intervals and stand replacement fires are the norm in this vegetative zone, similar to the Spruce-Fir zone.

Spruce-Fir-Aspen Zone – Spruce, Fir, and Aspen dominate the higher elevations. Poor road access, steep slopes and a high percentage of wilderness characterize this zone. This is a 100 -300 year fire return interval zone. Stand replacement crown fires can occur here. These fires can be very intense and can exhibit long range spotting. This type of fire behavior usually occurs during drought years when both live and dead fuel moistures are low. During average years, fires generally exhibit minimal fire growth in this zone. This zone is especially prone to heavy rain events associated with monsoons. Aspen trees become very unstable when burned and are prone to fall. There was one fatality that was a result of a falling Aspen tree on Missionary Ridge Fire of 2002. The Aspen tree was not "cat-faced", but its roots had been burned underground. Use of well-educated spotters is highly recommended in all felling operations. Additionally, this area is typically a good candidate for wildland fire use (WFU) for resource benefit, especially since it is usually farther from the urban interface than the other

two zones. If you are unfamiliar with Wildland Fire Use please ask for clarification before your first assignment. Communications can be difficult in this zone due to the rugged topography. The main repeaters for this area are Tuckerville, Kennebec, and Kendall.

Helispots:

HELISPOTS	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	ELEVATION
Trimble Work center	37°23.46'N	107°50.52'W	6580'
Vallecito	37°25.66'N	107°33.28'W	7680'
Peidra River ***Hazard – Power lines across canyon***	37°14.21'N	107°20.42'W	6600'
Bayfield	37°13.65'N	107°35.43'W	6700'

Dolores District

The Dolores District can be divided into 3 distinct zones. The Pinyon-Juniper-Sage zone (5,000 - 7,000 ft), Ponderosa Pine-Gambel Oak zone (7,000 – 8,500 ft), and the Spruce-Fir-Aspen zone (8,500-11,500ft).

Pinyon-Juniper-Sage Zone

The lower elevations of the Dolores District are mainly comprised of dense PJ fuels. This zone is a patchwork of federal and private land, which brings multiple agencies (including local volunteer fire dept's) together. Many steep canyons cut through the mostly flat mesa-top country, especially on the west side of the district. The canyon country is primarily federal land and consists of dense PJ concentrations. The mesa-top country is primarily private land and consists of PJ and large agricultural plots (mainly dry grass fields).

Fire behavior in the PJ zone has changed dramatically since the Ips Beetle infestation has killed a majority of the pinyon trees throughout the area. Underneath the dead pinyon overstory, cheat and other grasses have invaded the sites. Once the grasses cure, you can expect very active fire behavior due to the amount of dead fuel available. These fires can exhibit rapid rates of spread, long flame lengths and they burn very intensely. With the fuels conditions in the PJ stands, active crown fires can occur at very low windspeeds. A mid-flame windpeed of 8 MPH can cause an active running crown fire with short and moderate range spotting. With the high amount of dead, available fuel in the PJ stands fires will behave more like a fuel model 2 or 4 than the fuel model 6 which is often used to describe fire behavior in PJ fuels. In addition, many canyons are perfectly oriented to funnel SW winds, which is the predominant afternoon wind direction in this country. The most successful suppression tactic is to establish a solid anchor point and directly flank the fire with a progressive hose lay and/or dozer line and use aerial resources to support ground operations. There is a large amount of Wildland and Industrial-Urban interface in the PJ zone on the Dolores district. In addition, we work with several volunteer fire service agencies in Montezuma County. Fires in the interface become complex very rapidly due to the numbers of homes and other exposures that become threatened and the numerous agencies that respond to these fires.

The cultivated fields on the mesa-tops provide good natural barriers, anchor points, and safety zones. Access is difficult in much of this zone due to the extensive canyon system (there are generally no roads into the canyons). A large portion of the PJ zone was established as a National Monument because of the high archaeological site density. In some areas, the site density reaches over 700 sites per square mile, some of the densest in the world. For this reason, mechanical equipment is generally not allowed. An Archaeologist must be requested through dispatch for any significant fires in which suppression may cause ground disturbance. Additionally, gas wells are present throughout the area and should be addressed during any fire. Repeaters in the PJ zone include Goodman, Escalante and Benchmark.

Pine – Gambel Oak Zone

A majority of the pine-oak zone is characterized by gentle rolling topography that is bisected by a few major canyon drainages. Fuels generally consist of Ponderosa Pine with Gambel Oak in the under story. Additionally, there are pockets of pure Gambel Oak (especially towards the upper elevations of this zone) and pockets of PJ in the canyon drainages (mainly south aspects). Generally, fire behavior is moderate under the pines under moderate fire weather conditions. However, very active to extreme fire behavior can occur due to low live and dead fuel moistures and alignment of slope and wind. Understory oak that has been frost killed or with low live fuel moistures can contribute to fire reaching into the crowns. Wind is very important here, moderate to high windspeeds will cause very active fire behavior, torching, crowning, and spotting. Fire Behavior can be extreme in canyon areas due to winds (generally southwest), steep slopes, chimneys, and heavy fuel build-ups. An extensive system of roads throughout this zone is valuable for access and burnout operations. Direct attack is usually an appropriate tactic on the flat country under the pines. When fires establish in the main canyons it is usually most pertinent to hold rim roads and catch the fire on the mesa-top. Aerial resources are helpful in this situation. Drought, low live and dead fuel moistures, and alignment of slope, fuel, and wind does cause extreme fire behavior. In addition, much of the oak on the district has been frost killed and mortality has also occurred due to the drought. The drought has contributed to low live fuel moistures. Expect very active to extreme fire behavior with these conditions. Water sources (mainly stock ponds) are more frequent here than any other part of the forest. There are three major gas line and two major power lines running through this zone. The lines generally parallel the main Dolores-Norwood Road (FDR 526). Archaeological sites are present in this zone,

and are most common near canyon rims and within a 1 mile radius of McPhee reservoir. The main repeaters for this area are Benchmark, Menefee, and Goodman Point.

Spruce-Fir-Aspen Zone

The higher elevations of the Dolores district are dominated by spruce, fir, and aspen. This zone is characterized by poor road access, steep slopes and large mesa-tops. This is a 100-300 year fire return interval zone. Stand replacement crown fires can occur here. These fires can be very intense and can exhibit long range spotting. This type of fire behavior usually occurs during drought years when both live and dead fuel moistures are low. During average years, fires generally exhibit minimal fire behavior or growth in this zone. This zone is especially prone to heavy rain events associated with the monsoons. Aspen trees become very unstable when burned and are prone to fall. Communications can be difficult in this zone due to the rugged topography. Access to repeaters is limited.

Helispots

These are some good helispots used in the past. Keep in mind that there are many good areas for helispots around the district.

HELISPOTS	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	ELEVATION
Salter Y	37 39.01' N	108 32.60' W	8200'
Beaver Creek	37 37.92"N	108 25.38' W	8000'
Dolores Town Park	37 28.18'N	108 31.34' W	6900'
Haycamp Mesa	37 28.97'N	108 21.46'W	8000'
Dolores Rim Overlook	37 45.76'N	108 47.22'W	7600'

Pagosa District - The Pagosa RD has 4 primary fuel types. The ponderosa pine/Gambel Oak fuel type, and pure Gambel Oak sites (7,000 – 8,500 ft), the Mixed Conifer fuel type (8500' – 10,000'), and finally the Spruce/Fir type (10,000' – tree line).

Pine – Gambel Oak - A majority of the pine-oak zone is characterized by gentle rolling topography. Fuels generally consist of ponderosa pine with Gambel oak in the under story. Additionally, there are pockets of pure Gambel oak. Generally, fire behavior is moderate under the pines with some isolated pockets of high fire behavior due to fuel jackpots and topography variances. Roads throughout this zone are valuable for access. Fires in the Gambel oak typically exhibit low to moderate fire behavior. ***. However, oak that has been frost damaged, on steep slopes, or pre-heated by a fire can exhibit extreme fire behavior, especially with strong winds***. Archaeological sites are present in this zone. The main repeaters for this area are Oak brush and Devil Mountain.

Mixed Conifer - The mixed conifer is characterized by moderate to steep terrain. This zone has moderate to low access and is the heaviest recreated zone represented on the district. The mixed conifer is comprised of both wet and dry sites depending upon elevation and aspect. Burn characteristics differ for both.

Spruce-Fir-Aspen Zone - The higher elevations of the Pagosa District are dominated by spruce, fir, and aspen. This zone is characterized by infrequent starts, poor road access, steep slopes, and extensive deadfall. Fires generally exhibit minimal fire behavior or growth in this zone. This zone is especially prone to heavy rain events associated with the monsoons.

Helispots

HELISPOTS	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	ELEVATION
Les' Park in 2nd Box Canyon	37° 22' 19"N	107° 17' 01"W	**7775'**
Gravel Pit up First Fork Road	37° 14' 11"N	107° 20' 28"W	**6595'**
Dead Man's Curve up Peidra Road next to 2nd Box Canyon	37° 24' 56"N	107° 11' 37"W	**7800'**
Log Park	37° 18' 48"N	106° 56' 24"W	**7790'**
Cabazon Canyon	37° 10' 12"N	107° 17' 57"W	**6590'**
Confar Hill	37° 04' 31"N	106° 50' 07"W	**7940'**
Buckles Lake	37° 07' 59"N	106° 48' 31"W	**9712'**
Left-hand Canyon	37° 12' 51"N	106° 52' 02"W	**7650'**

Mesa Verde National Park

Welcome to Mesa Verde National Park. This packet is designed to give you information that you will need in order to have a safe, effective assignment. Please take time to read through the materials. Mesa Verde is often used as a staging area for fire resources during times of higher fire severity in the park and in the Durango Zone.

Safety: Safety of firefighters is our number one priority. Crews will be required to hold a daily safety briefing, follow the 10 Standard Orders, and review the 18 Watch out Situations as well as LCES. Due to the steep rocky topography, limited ingress and egress, there are very few natural safety zones. Recent wildfires have reduced the larger pinyon and juniper fuels in some locations and has provided grassy areas to potentially establish safety zones after appropriate mitigation. None of the resources in this park are worth injury or the loss of life. Definitely plan for lookout(s) and construct escape routes and safety zones as needed. Other safety reminders include:

- drive defensively and be aware of park visitors and animals on the roads.
- drink plenty of water
- wear sunscreen
- hazardous terrain includes cliffs, steep slopes, loose rocks etc.
- although rare, expect the chance encounters with rattlesnakes, scorpions and stinging insects.

Fire Management Facilities: Fire Management/Cache is located in the CCC loop area, just off the entrance road at mile marker 19. Facilities are small and can become congested easily. Crews and equipment are instructed to stage at Morfield Campground or at the Farview Area. If directed, stage crews and equipment in the parking lot west of the Fire Management Office. To avoid congestion, please keep crew members in the parking area and have crew overhead take care of business at the office.

Mesa Verde Helitack. A Type III helicopter (B-2) is based off the park at Hesperus, CO for fire suppression, prescribed fire or SAR operations in the Durango Zone. For your safety, you will only enter the helibase under the direction of helitack personnel. At that time you will be fully briefed on safe procedures for working with the helicopter. Full PPE is required at all times at the helibase.

Fire History: Mesa Verde has a history of frequent lightning-caused fires. The vast majority of these fires are single tree to ¼ acre in size and easily suppressed by ground forces and/or limited helicopter operations. However, the Park has been subjected to large-stand replacement fires that occur every 5 –10 years. In 2000, the Bircher and Pony fires burned over 28,000 acres. Other agencies in the area have experienced similar fire incidents.

Local Fuels: The primary plant communities you will be working in are pinyon-juniper, mountain shrub, and small pockets of Douglas fir and ponderosa pine. The pinyon–juniper are mostly dense mature stands with fuel loading at 35-60 tons per acre. Ten to 30% of the fuel loading is dead fuel. Surface fuels in this type are patchy, so the crowns are the primary carrier of fire. Usually a wind is needed to drive the fire; however, under dry conditions plume-dominated fires driven by fuel conditions can sustain a crown fire in the absence of wind. These fires have all the characteristics of extreme behavior including torching, crowning, spotting, and rapid rates of spread.

The mountain shrub communities are dominated by Gambel's oak. This type is adapted to fire and contains heavy fuel loads. Fire can be carried through the surface fuels, the crowns, or both. A common hazard in oak involves re-burns due to pre-heating from burning surface fuels. Fires in the shrub communities can be flashy with high rates of spread, especially on the steeper slopes in the park.

Douglas–fir stands are found in shady areas of canyons or on north aspects. Fires that originate in this type usually have slow rates of spread and moderate behavior. Large fires that start in the other fuel types will often burn into the Douglas fir with extreme behavior. Other land agencies in the area have similar fuel types; however, always ask the locals about their particular conditions.

Fire Dispatch and IA: Initial attack fires in and around the park are dispatched through Durango Dispatch. Fires are detected through fire lookouts, aerial detection, and the general public. Fires are prioritized and resources dispatched to the fires. Commonly, crews are broken into modules and flown to fires using our helicopter for quick action on initial attack fires. Crews may also access fires either on foot or using vehicles. Fire line qualified archeologist may accompany fire crews to the line. During times of likely fire occurrence (i.e., after lightning storms) crews will be pre-positioned at strategic locations for quick mobilization. Crews must always be fire-ready since they may be dispatched at any time. This includes having gear for staying out overnight.

Communications: Your crew packet contains a list of radio frequencies, call signs, and phone numbers used in the park and Durango Zone.

Supplies: Crews should arrive fire-ready with complete PPE, tools, and overnight gear. Crews that come unprepared may be sent home due to safety concerns. Our cache is very limited and it is not equipped to supply large numbers of people. We will do our best to replace broken or worn items within reason.

Project Work: In periods of slow fire activity, crews will work on various projects in the park as well as with neighboring agencies. This may include hazard fuels reduction; trail work, prescribed fire preparation, and various maintenance jobs.

Camping: The park's campground at Morfield provides camping facilities for crews. The campground has showers, phones, and a store.

Meals: Generally, crews will drive to various local restaurants for breakfast and dinner. Sack lunches will be provided for crews. You will be given a list of restaurants that have an agreement with us.

Mesa Verde National Park: From 300 A.D. until the late 1200s, the ancestral Puebloan people built an amazing system of homes, villages, and agricultural communities on Mesa Verde. Mesa Verde National Park was created in 1906 to preserve and protect these pre-historic resources. Later legislation directed the National Park Service to protect the historic and natural resources also. Because of this, there are strict laws against destroying or removing any objects in the park. As you work throughout the Park, you may find pieces of pottery or other objects. You can look at these objects, but please remember to replace them where they were found so that others may enjoy them.

HELISPOTS AND DIPSITES:

HELISPOTS	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	ELEVATION
Chapin Helispot & Dipsite	37° 09' 29.02"	108° 29' 01.9"	6861'
Wetherill Dipsite	37° 12' 19.05"	108° 32' 39.54"	7255'
Quarry Helispot (Chapin Mesa)	37° 12' 21.5"	108° 29' 21.03"	7183'
Ft Lewis Helibase (off the park near Hesperus)	37° 13' 54"	108° 03' 02.6"	

Southern Ute Agency

The Southern Ute Reservation is comprised predominantly of the Pinyon-Juniper-Sage and pine-Gambel oak fuel zones, yet does have a mixed conifer component at its highest elevations along its eastern boundary. The Pinyon-Juniper fuel zone at lower elevations will burn readily when conditions are dry and winds exceed 20 mph. The Pine zone at mid elevations is the most fire prone of the fuels and is present in often overcrowded and overstocked stands throughout the reservation. The mixed conifer fuels are located on top of Archuleta Mesa near the Jicarilla Apache Reservation in NM, and predominate on the north facing slopes and ridge tops.

The Southern Ute Reservation is a checkerboard configuration of land ownerships between private land and the Southern Ute Tribal Land. Typically, valley bottoms and level areas were homesteaded and are now private lands. Subsequently, much of tribal property consists of steep and often rugged terrain. An increasing urban/interface fire situation is developing in the privately owned areas within the reservation.

Due to the steep and rugged terrain, many of the fires occurring on the reservation are not accessible by vehicle.

Firefighter Exclusion Area - An underground coal seam runs beneath a portion of the west central part of the reservation and is an area where hydrogen sulfide, methane and carbon monoxide levels have the potential to reach dangerous levels. This area has been deemed a firefighter exclusion zone and all fires within the boundary (see attached map) are fought with aerial resources only. The exclusion zone is generally located west of Highway 140 between Iron Springs Gulch and Valencia Canyon, extending from the New Mexico border roughly ten miles to the north. A buffer zone one mile east and west of the exclusion zone requires gas monitors for on the ground fire personnel.

Helispots

HELISPOTS	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	ELEVATION
Round Meadow	37 05’ 1”N	107 13’43”W	6800’
E of Cat Creek Gap	37 06’ 25”N	107 09’18”W	7725’
S of Canon Nutrita	37 02’ 45”N	107 13 40”W	7198’
Sandoval Lookout Tower	37 06’2”N	107 18’3”W	8166’

Ute Mountain Ute Agency

Four geographical areas characterize the Ute Mountain Agency. The area north and west of Towaoc comprises the Sleeping Ute mountain range. This area has the greatest variation in elevation and topography on the reservation. Slope steepness can be extreme in this area. Vegetation varies from the typical pinyon/juniper or sage at the lower elevations to ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir at the higher elevations. Gambel oak is scattered throughout the area and is concentrated in draws and northern aspects. Large oak patches are scattered throughout these areas. Water is available from the relatively numerous stock ponds present throughout the area.

Flat mesas with limited access characterize the area to the east of Towaoc, bordering Mesa Verde National Park, and north of Mancos Canyon. Partial vehicular access is gained through the park. The remaining access is by helicopter or two to three hour walks. Vegetation is limited to the typical pinyon/juniper type. Canyons, between the mesas, can be characterized by steep escarpments with enclaves of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. This area is within the Ute Mountain Tribal Park and has an abundance of archaeological sites. Care must be taken with dozer or aerial retardant use. Water is obtained from the Mesa Verde National Park from a dipping site on Chapin Mesa.

The area south of Mancos Canyon is moderately roaded and dominated by the typical pinyon/juniper. This area extends into New Mexico where vegetation becomes sparse and fire occurrence is minimal. There are extensive “chained” areas where trees were cleared in the 1960’s that are now comprised of sagebrush flats with young pinyon and juniper now becoming established. The old heavy fuels can be abundant in some of these areas. Water sources are extremely limited and consist of stock ponds that may or may not have water.

The area to the south of Towaoc and west of Sleeping Ute is characterized by sparse vegetation. The sparseness occurs from limited rainfall and high grazing activity. During above average rain years, grasses, especially cheat grass and sage provide fuels fire spread. Ungrazed area on the right-of-way along Highways 491 and 160 provides fuel for human starts as a significant cause of fire adjacent to these highways. Water is limited to the irrigation canal when enough water is allocated to the Tribal Farm.

Pinyon pine and juniper provide the typical fuel type over much of the reservation. Fires are generally limited to singletree events. The exception occurs during wind events or plume dominated events. This can be especially hazardous during drought conditions or when the monsoons do not develop during the summer months.

Gas wells are present on the southeast corner of the reservation. Some are “dirty wells” that occasionally vent hydrogen sulfide, a potentially deadly gas. Concentrations are normally well within guidelines but the presence of this gas must be considered for all operations. These wells are identified by signs and the presence of windsocks.

UMA Helispots

HELISPOTS	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	ELEVATION
Ute Mountain Area			
Marble Mountain	37° 17' 48.05"N	108° 47' 27.68"W	8400 ft
Whiskey Road No. 2	37° 18' 12.61"N	108° 45' 26.19"W	7025 ft
Horseshoe Lake	37° 17' 1.65"N	108°47' 48.02"W	7345 ft
Horse Mountain	37° 16' 26.75"N	108°47' 11.81"W	8095 ft
East Horse Mountain	37° 16' 12.62"N	108°45' 35.26"W	7600 ft
Old Radio Tower (South of Horse Mtn)	37°15'17.87"N	108°46'32.86"W	7970 ft
Mesa Areas West of Mesa Verde NP			
East Fork	37°13'38.02"N	108°34'35.31"W	7015 ft
Horse Springs	37°13'26.36"N	108°35'17.34"W	7535 ft
Pony Canyon 1	37°12'6.93''N	108°35'12.40"W	7395 ft
Pony Canyon 2	37°11'49.29"N	108°34'52.01"W	7365 ft
Wild horse Mesa	37°10'54.37"N	108°33'15.41"W	6995 ft
Northeast Corner			
Trail Canyon	37°14'43.85"N	108°15'8.45"W	7815 ft

General Safety Message

Terrain: The topography in the Zone is some of the roughest in North America. Over six peaks in the zone exceed 14,000 feet in elevation and many exceed 12,000 or 13,000 feet. This dramatic topography can cause problems for fire operations. Attention should be paid to:

Altitude sickness: Numerous cases reported during Missionary Ridge Fire. Acclimate slowly and know the symptoms and treatment.

Severe weather: Sandwiched between the Continental Divide on the east and the Colorado Plateau on the west, weather over the mountains can develop quicker than expected. Cases of hypothermia, even in the summer are not uncommon. During the monsoon season, lightning, hail and flash flooding can catch people by surprise.

Air operations: Always consider the high altitudes you are operating at and the possibility of unstable/unexpected weather in the vicinity of high terrain.

Communications: The rugged terrain makes radio and cell phone communications difficult. Learn the radio system **before** you have emergency traffic.

Driving: Southwest Colorado has the highest rate of vehicle collisions with deer and elk in the state of Colorado. Be alert to this fact particularly in the evenings and around sunset and sunrise.

> During fire season, a high percentage of the traffic on the highways consists of out-of-area drivers. Be patient and expect the unexpected.
>
> Mountain roads may not be built for heavy engines or other large vehicles. Plan ahead. Wet, steep mountain roads may become unstable and may slide off with excessive weight. Check old bridges.

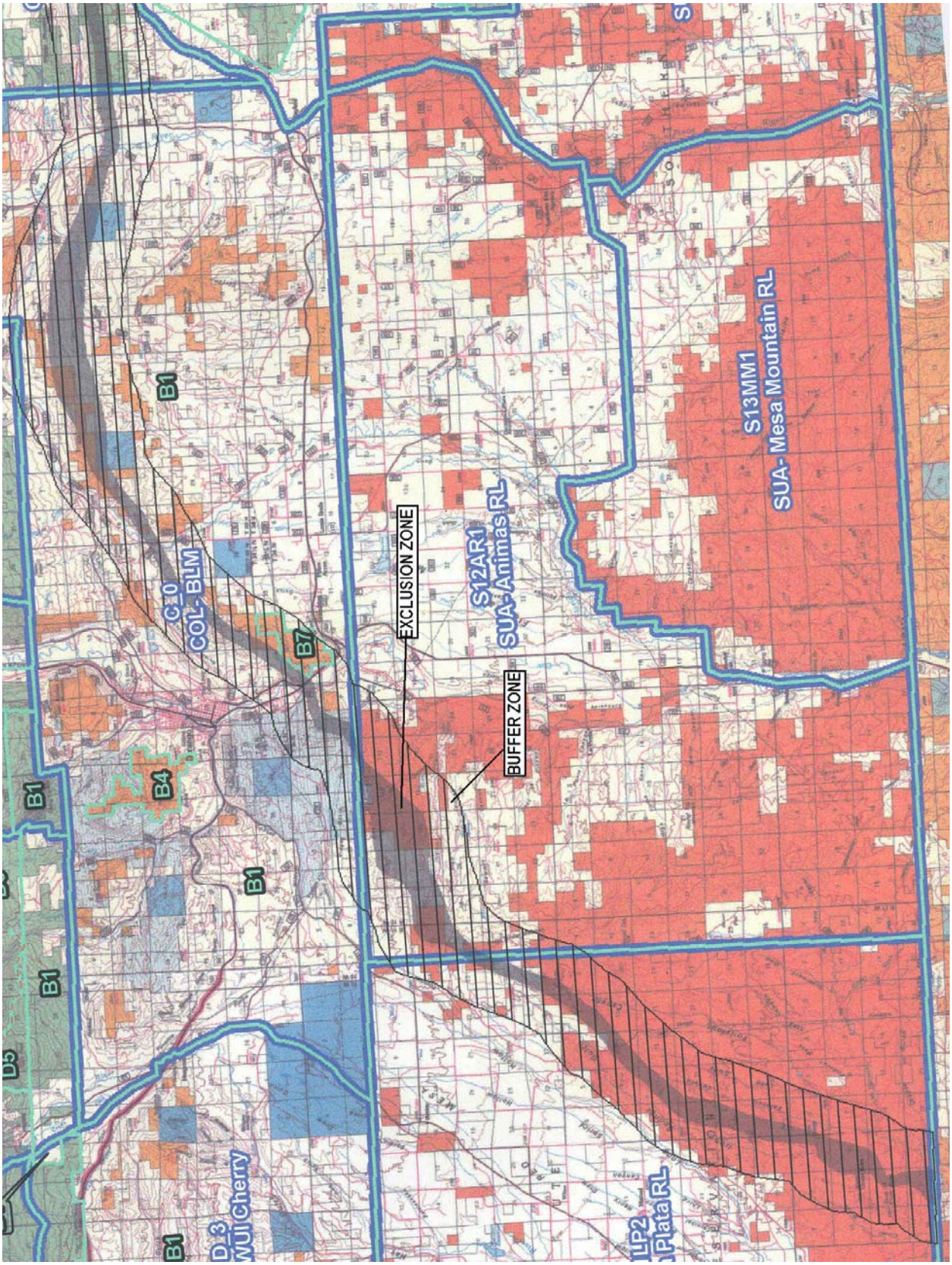
Hazardous Gases: There are pockets of hydrogen sulfide, methane and carbon monoxide gas on the Southern Ute reservation (see attached map). Contact Dispatch if you have questions about these areas.

Fire Behavior: Colorado oak brush does not look like an especially dangerous fuel when it is green, but has been fatal to a number of firefighters over the years, including those on Storm King Mountain. Oak brush may be stressed and dry even though it is green. Be especially alert to conditions after frost conditions as the fuels may have dried out, yet will still appear green. Ask the locals…

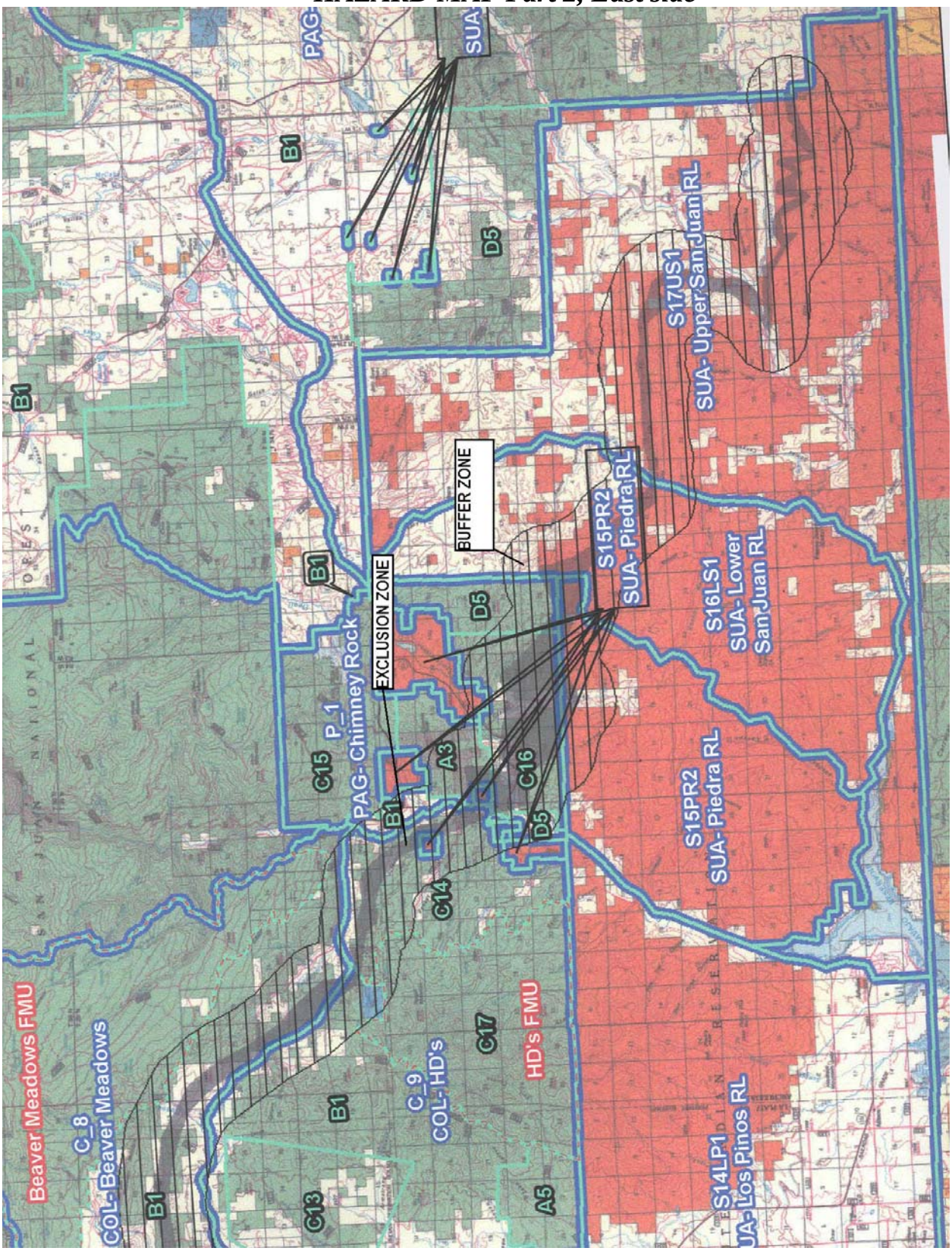
Coal Seam Hazardous Gas Areas

Firefighter Exclusion Area - An underground coal seam runs beneath a portion of the Columbine Public Lands, Southern Ute Agency, and the Pagosa Public Lands. This is an area where hydrogen sulfide, methane and carbon monoxide levels have the potential to reach dangerous levels. This area has been deemed a firefighter exclusion zone and all fires within the boundary (see attached map) are fought with aerial resources only. A buffer zone one mile east and west of the exclusion zone requires gas monitors for on the ground fire personnel. The hazards exist when the ground is disturbed, such as building a fire line.

HAZARD AREA Part 1, West side



HAZARD MAP Part 2, East side



Pocket Cards

The Fire Danger Pocket Card is a tool based on the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) to help you (the firefighter) develop an awareness of the current fire situation that you are about to step into.

The prime objective of the NFDRS is to provide a measure of the seriousness of local burning conditions. The Pocket Card provides a visual reference of those conditions and how they compare to previous fire seasons.

What is Fire Danger Rating?

- A decision *aid* that describes the factors - fuels, weather and topography - which affect the initiation, spread and difficulty of control of wildfires on an area.

- We emphasize *aid* because fire danger rating information is not the answer by itself; it must be considered along with local knowledge of an area.

What will the Fire Danger Pocket Card do?

- The Fire Danger Pocket Card is useful in initial fire size up, initial attack and extended attack.

- The Fire Danger Pocket Card gives firefighters a general indicator of the potential for the fuels to support extreme fire behavior and of the difficulty of control.

What won't the Fire Danger Pocket Card do?

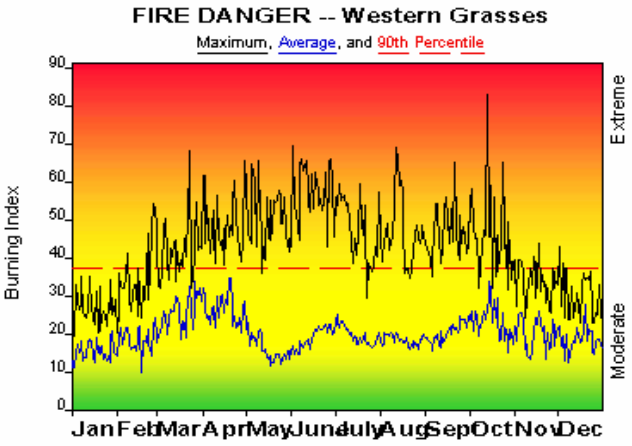
- The Fire Danger Pocket Card will not provide site specific fire behavior predictions.

How Do Firefighters use the Fire Danger Pocket Cards?

- Compare current and predicted local fire danger to historical local fire danger in order to enhance situational awareness.

    - Use this information to be aware of indicators that predict the potential for extreme fire behavior.

Daily Weather Indices: The DRC area daily indices will include the Fuel Model, High, Low, and Average; Energy Release Component (ERC) and Burning Index (BI). The Staffing Level and Fire Danger rating will complete the indices.



Fire Danger Area:

- Fuel Model A Grasses
- DRC Forecast Zone 207
- Chapin, Mesa Mtn

Fuel Model A Western Grass

Fire Danger Interpretation:

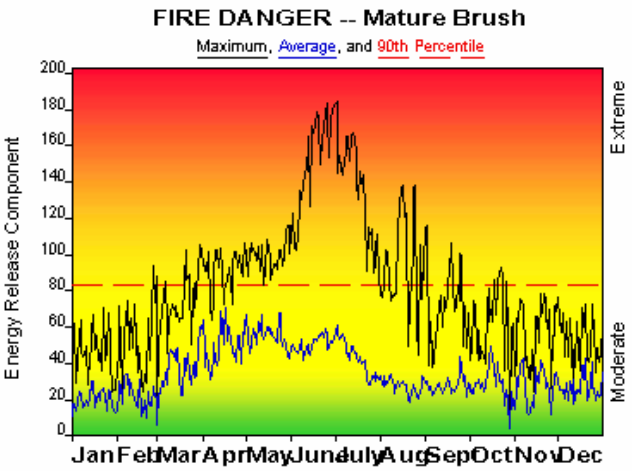
EXTREME -- Use extreme caution
(Caution) -- Watch for change
Moderate -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

Maximum -- Highest Burning Index by day for 1972 - 2005
Average -- shows peak fire season
90th Percentile -- Only 10% of the days from 1972 - 2005 had an Burning Index above 37

Local Thresholds - Watch out: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior: 20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 20%, Temperature over 90, Herbaceous Fuel Moisture less than 60

Fuel Model A WESTERN GRASSLANDS - This fuel model represents western grasslands vegetated by annual grasses and forbs. Brush or trees may be present but are very sparse, occupying less than a third of the area. Within Southwest Colorado at elevations below 8,000', Fuel Model A are used in areas where we find cheat grass, medusa head, and OPEN pinion-juniper, sagebrush-grass, and shrub areas with a relatively low density of woody plants. The quantity and continuity of the ground fuels vary greatly with rainfall from year to year.

Dates to Remember: Moccasin, 7/15/03, 2,744 Acres, BI-45, ERC-60
Hogan, 6/21/86, 5,500 Acres, BI-15, ERC-20



Fire Danger Area:

- Fuel Model B - Brush
- DRC Forecast Zone 207
- Morfield

Fuel Model B Mature Brush

Fire Danger Interpretation:

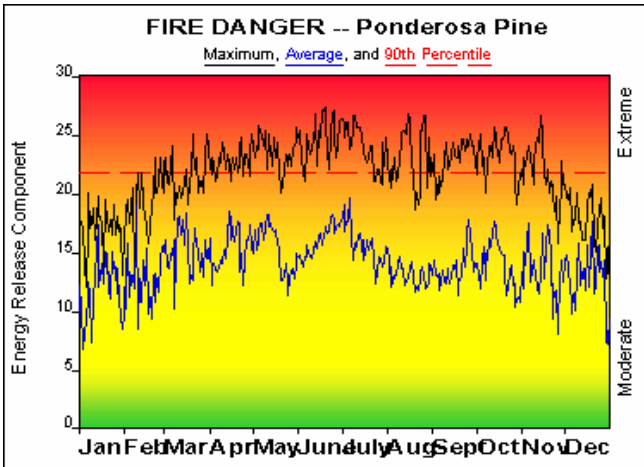
EXTREME -- Use extreme caution
(Caution) -- Watch for change
Moderate -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

Maximum -- Highest Energy Release Component by day for 1984 - 2005
Average -- shows peak fire season
90th Percentile -- Only 10% of the days from 1984 - 2005 had an Energy Release Component above 82

Local Thresholds - Watch out: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior: 20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 20%, Temperature over 90, Woody fuel Moisture less than 90

Fuel Model B MATURE BRUSH - Mature brush in Southwest Colorado is comprised mainly of Gambel oak brush. In many areas, approximately 1/4 of the aerial fuels in the stands are dead due to extended drought and frost kill. However, live oak, with low moisture can exhibit extreme fire behavior as well. Oak is common under ponderosa pine and can act as a ladder fuel. Continuous stands of mature brush can burn extremely fast and exhibit extreme fire behavior. Be aware of extreme fire behavior with an ERC of 76 or greater. Other environmental factors that are conducive to extreme fire behavior are winds greater than 15 MPH, relative humidity under 20%, and live fuel moistures below 90%. Several fatality and entrapment fires have occurred in this fuel type. Strong winds associated with dry frontal passages are extremely dangerous. Mature brush stands can be generally found above 7,000 feet. Some pinyon and juniper stands will burn and exhibit fire behavior similar to this fuel model. Recent pinyon pine mortality has resulted in a high increase in large dead fuels and fine dead aerial fuels in these stands. Other shrubs and the increase in cheat and other grasses have resulted in fire behavior that is comparable to the mature brush fuel model.

Dates to Remember: Pony Fire, 8/2/00, 3,888 Acres, BI-55, ERC-65,
Chapin 5 Fire, 8/18/96, 4,781 Acres, BI-30, ERC-37



Fire Danger Area:

- Fuel Model C - Ponderosa
- DRC Forecast Zone 207
- Salter, Devil, Sandoval

Fuel Model C Ponderosa Pine

Fire Danger Interpretation:

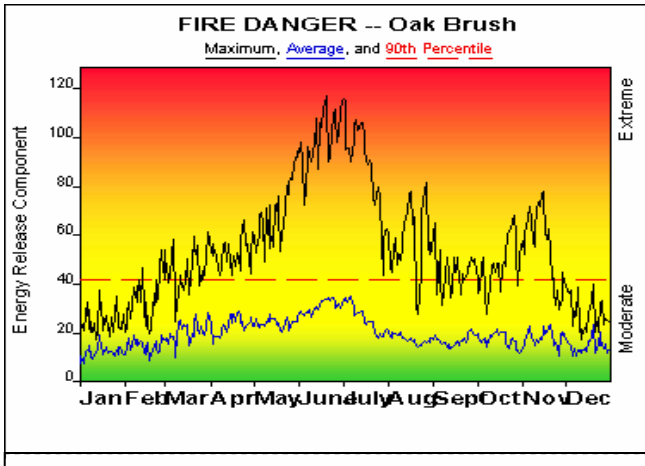
EXTREME -- Use extreme caution
(Caution) -- Watch for change
Moderate -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

Maximum -- Highest Energy Release Component by day for 1984 - 2005
Average -- shows peak fire season
90th Percentile -- Only 10% of the days from 1984 - 2005 had an Energy Release Component above 22

Local Thresholds - Watch out: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior: 20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 20%, Temperature over 90, 10-Hour Fuel Moisture less than 7

Fuel Model C PONDEROSA PINE (7,000' to 9,000') - Open ponderosa pine stands with a Grass and Gambel oak understory typify Model C fuels in Southwestern Colorado. Grass, and Pine needle litter, Gambel oak litter and branchwood are the primary carriers of the fire. Perennial grasses and forbs can either contribute to, or retard, fire spread depending upon live fuel moistures and time of year. Oak brush and other shrubs are usually present and will contribute significantly to the fire behavior depending on their densities and height. Rates of spread are typically slower than Fuel Model C in other areas; however, flame length and fireline intensity is greater. Torching and spotting are common, especially when the brush interconnects with the pine canopy. Because of the open canopy, group torching is more common than crown runs. Sustained crown runs are rare and generally occur only in extreme conditions of drought and wind.

Dates to Remember: Disappointment Fire, 7/20/96, 3,840 Acres, BI-40, ERC-40
Missionary Ridge Fire, 6/9/02, 73,121 Acres, BI-80, ERC- 60



Fire Danger Area:

- Fuel Model F - Oak Brush
- DRC Forecast Zone 207
- All Except Morfield

Fuel Model F Oak Brush

Fire Danger Interpretation:

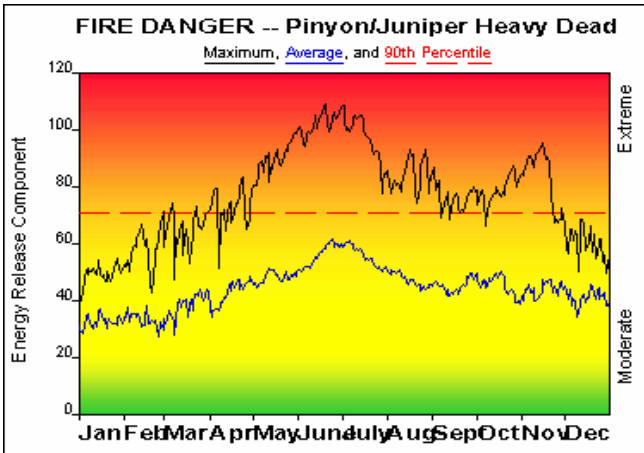
EXTREME -- Use extreme caution
(Caution) -- Watch for change
Moderate -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

Maximum -- Highest Energy Release Component by day for 1972 - 2005
Average -- shows peak fire season
90th Percentile -- Only 10% of the days from 1972 - 2005 had an Energy Release Component above 41

Local Thresholds - Watch out: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior: 20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 20%, Temperature over 90, Woody fuel Moisture less than 120

Fuel Model F OAK BRUSH - The Gambel Oak fuel type in Southwest Colorado is generally found between 7,000 and 8,500 feet elevation. Fuels generally consist of Gambel Oak (0 - 25 feet tall) with Ponderosa Pine overstory, oak being the primary carrier of fire and facilitates the transition for crown fire initiation in the pine. Pockets (50-80 acres) of pure Gambel Oak are randomly intermixed in this zone, primarily on south aspects. A majority of the pine/oak zone is characterized by gentle rolling topography. Gambel Oak that has been pre-heated by fire has potential to re-burn. Frost damaged oak may exhibit extreme fire behavior. Other environmental factors that are conducive to extreme fire behavior are winds greater than 15 MPH, relative humidity under 20%, and live fuel moistures below 90%. Soil moisture is heavily depleted by Gambel Oak, causing additional stress on the Ponderosa Pine in and around oak clumps. This is likely a mixed severity fire regime fuel type, with a fire frequency from 1 to 22 years.

Dates to Remember: Bircher Fire, 7/20/00, 23,220 Acres, BI-47, ERC-55
West Toe Fire, 6/21/86, 5,500 Acres, BI-28, ERC-35



Fire Danger Area:

- Fuel Model G - P/J - Low
- DRC Forecast Zone 207
- All RAWS Stations

Fuel Model G
Pinyon/Juniper
Heavy Dead

Fire Danger Interpretation:

EXTREME -- Use extreme caution
(Caution) -- Watch for change
Moderate -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

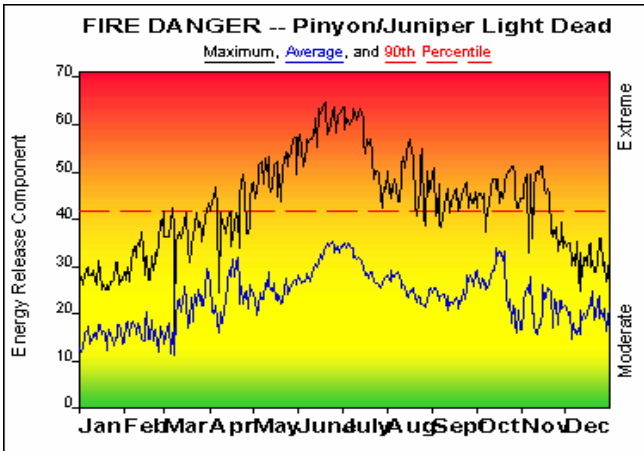
Maximum -- Highest Energy Release Component by day for 1964 - 2005
Average -- shows peak fire season
90th Percentile -- Only 10% of the days from 1964 - 2005 had an Energy Release Component above 71

Local Thresholds - Watch out: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior: 20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 20%, Temperature over 90, 10-Hour Fuel Moisture less than 7

Fuel Model G PINYON/JUNIPER (HEAVY DEAD) LOW ELEVATION (Under* 8,500*)

Pinyon/Juniper stands with high mortality due to drought, insect or disease are represented by Fuel Model G can be found throughout Southwestern Colorado at elevations ranging from 5,000 to 8,500 feet. These stands may have a large diameter dead component similar to other G represented stands yet will unlikely have the continuous, heavy buildup of duff or litter layer. Fuel Model G measures long-term drought more effectively than other fuel models with a smaller dead component such as Fuel Model F. Stands most represented by this fuel model will have noticeable mortality, usually in the Pinyon component. Mortality of Pinyon in some stands has reached 90%.

Dates to Remember: Long Mesa Fire, 7/29/02, 2,601 Acres, BI-35, ERC-25
Bolt Fire, 7/26/03, 2,160 Acres, BI-35, ERC-48



Fire Danger Area:

- Fuel Model H - P/J
- DRC Forecast Zone 207
- Chapin, Morfield

Fuel Model H
Pinyon/Juniper
Light Dead

Fire Danger Interpretation:

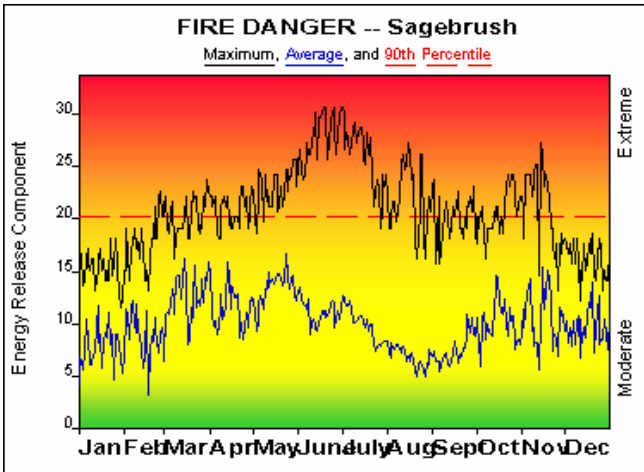
EXTREME -- Use extreme caution
(Caution) -- Watch for change
Moderate -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

Maximum -- Highest Energy Release Component by day for 1972 - 2005
Average -- shows peak fire season
90th Percentile -- Only 10% of the days from 1972 - 2005 had an Energy Release Component above 42

Local Thresholds - Watch out: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior: 20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 20%, Temperature over 90, 10-Hour Fuel Moisture less than 7

***Fuel Model H PINYON/JUNIPER (LIGHT DEAD) LOW ELEVATION (Under* 8,500') -** The short-needled conifers are represented by Fuel Model H. In contrast to Model G fuels, Fuel Model H describes a healthy stand with sparse undergrowth and a thin layer of ground fuels. Fires in H fuels are typically slow spreading and are dangerous only in scattered areas where the downed woody material is concentrated. However, with the recent increase in mortality affecting most pinyon and juniper stands in southwest Colorado expect to see a moderate amount of dead pinyon in these stands. In addition, an increase in cheat and other grasses and forbs has resulted in fairly continuous fine fuels underneath these pinyon and juniper stands. Increased fine dead fuels in the crowns of the pinyon combined with an increase in grass fuels on the surface will contribute to more intense fires and fires that exhibit faster rates of spread. Increased spotting may also be experienced due to the increase in receptive fuels.

Dates to Remember: House Creek Fire, 7/16/98, 800 Acres, BI-35, ERC-8
Coyote Fire, 6/17/86, 3,000 Acres, BI-17, ERC-30



Fire Danger Area:

- Fuel Model T Sagebrush
- DRC Forecast Zone 207
- Morfield, Mesa Mtn

Fuel Model T Sagebrush

Fire Danger Interpretation:

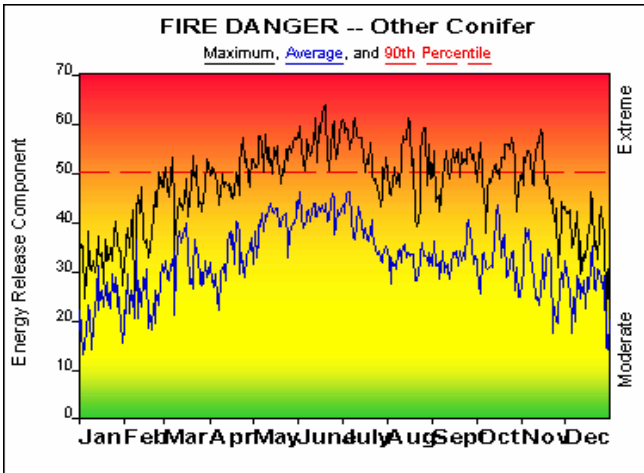
EXTREME -- Use extreme caution
(Caution) -- Watch for change
Moderate -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

Maximum -- Highest Energy Release Component by day for 1984 - 2005
Average -- shows peak fire season
90th Percentile -- Only 10% of the days from 1984 - 2005 had an Energy Release Component above 20

Local Thresholds - Watch out: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior: 20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 20%, Temperature over 90, Woody fuel Moisture less than 90

Fuel Model T Sagebrush - Fuel Model T represents sagebrush communities in the lower elevations of Southwestern Colorado. Sagebrush flats can be found in drainage bottoms and intermixed with Pinyon/Juniper stands in flat, deeper soil areas. Sagebrush communities occur typically in areas under 7,000 feet elevation. The shrubs burn easily and are not dense enough to shade out grass and other herbaceous plants. The shrubs occupy at lease one-third of the site. Large, mature sagebrush stands have plants reaching above six feet high and can produce unusually high flame lengths and fire behavior.

Dates to Remember: Cherry Creek Fire, 8/12/02, 1,360 Acres, BI-67, ERC-27
Aztec Three Fire, 7/5/87, 2,880 Acres, BI-25, ERC-28



Fire Danger Area:

- Fuel Model U - Conifers
- DRC Forecast Zone 207
- Salter, Mesa Mt, Sandoval

Fuel Model U Other Conifers

Fire Danger Interpretation:

EXTREME -- Use extreme caution
(Caution) -- Watch for change
Moderate -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

Maximum -- Highest Energy Release Component by day for 1992 - 2005
Average -- shows peak fire season
90th Percentile -- Only 10% of the days from 1992 - 2005 had an Energy Release Component above 50

Local Thresholds - Watch out: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior: 20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 20%, Temperature over 90, 10-Hour Fuel Moisture less than 7

Fuel Model U OTHER CONIFER (7,000' to 9,000') - In Southwestern Colorado, Fuel Model U represents closed stands of ponderosa pine and warm/dry mixed conifer. Needle litter and small branch wood are the primary carriers of the fire. Grass and oak brush are usually precluded by the dense canopy but occur in the occasional natural opening. Fire behavior includes moderate rates of spread with torching and spotting being dependant upon availability of ladder fuels. Short crown runs are common under dry conditions due to dense canopies. Sustained crown runs are possible under drought and high wind conditions.

Dates to Remember: Schaaf II Fire, 8/16/02, 556 Acres, BI-54, ERC-60
Mt. Arch Fire, 6/10/96, 16,456 Acres, BI-70, ERC-22

DRC AVIATION BRIEF FOR GROUND FORCES

In regards to Aviation, there are some rules and specifics that will help people plan for and work with aviation.

AVIATION - INITIAL ATTACK FREQUENCIES
Within the DRC area we will normally use the primary *Air to Air* 126.275
and *Air to Ground 1* (172.275) frequencies on all fires within the DRC area.

During times of heavier activity (or as necessary) we will use

- EAST side - primary *Air to Air* (126.275) and *Air to Ground 1* (172.275),

- WEST side - primary *Air to Air* (126.275) and secondary *Air to Ground* (172.325)

DRC can and will order additional frequencies (via an aircraft request), as necessary or requested.

Note that All DRC unit frequencies are programmed into the dispatch radio consoles.
DRC does not have air to air, air to ground or work channels in dispatch radio consoles.

Aircraft Flight following within the DRC area should be done on designated unit frequencies. National Flight Follow (168.650) should be used when unable to make contact through unit only if unable to make contact with DRC on unit frequencies. 15 Minute check-in is required for tactical aircraft.

Local flight follow over an incident – Please do 30 min. routine check-in for updates and status check. (i.e. "ops normal"); When flight following locally, the ground units must confirm positive contact direct with DRC.

Prior to take-off, notify DRC you are about to take off, provide a general flight plan.
As soon after takeoff as possible, confirm radio contact with DRC and notify of Number of Souls on Board (SOB), Number of hours of Fuel on Board (FOB), a general flight plan and you're heading.

More than 1 Airtanker on an incident requires aerial supervision, an ATGS, Leadplane or ASM must be requested.

Sunrise /Sunset

Airtanker Dispatch Limitations - Startup/Cutoff Times

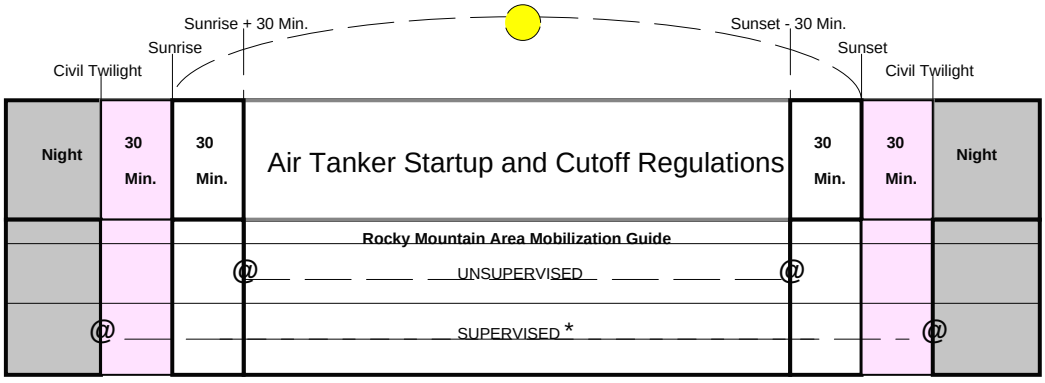
To reduce the hazards of airtanker retardant drops in the early morning and late evening hours, comply with the limitations on times when airtankers may drop retardant on fires. The following limitations apply to the time the aircraft arrives over the fire to conduct the drop, not to the time the aircraft is dispatched from a base and conforms to the information contained in the Interagency Airtanker Base Guide.

1. Limitations on Startup and Cutoff Times. Normally, airtankers shall be dispatched to arrive over a fire not earlier than 30 minutes after official sunrise and not later than 30 minutes before official sunset. These times are termed the "startup" and "cutoff" times respectively.

2. Exceptions. With a qualified Air Tactical Group Supervisor or Airtanker Coordinator, Airtankers may be dispatched to arrive over a fire as early as 30 minutes prior to official sunrise and as late as 30 minutes after official sunset provided:
   a. ATGS or ATCO Is on scene;
   b. It has determined that visibility and other safety factors are suitable for dropping retardant; and
   c. Notification to the appropriate dispatcher of this determination.

3. Determination of Official Sunrise, Startup, Cutoff, and Sunset Times. Each airtanker base and dispatch office shall have tables showing the official sunrise, startup, cutoff, and sunset times at those locations.

4. Determinations for Airtanker Dispatch. For airtanker dispatch, use the official sunrise, startup, cutoff and sunset times of the airtanker base nearest the fire and comply with the limitations in the preceding paragraphs 1 and 2.



@ = Arrival Over The Fire (No earlier in the morning or later than in the evening)

* = SUPERVISED (Defined as Air Tanker Coordinator or Air Tactical Group Supervisor)

Note: Sunrise and Sunset are determined by the Official Sunrise and Sunset Tables of the nearest relaod base.

An Air Attack, ASM or Leadplane is required to be dispatched to incidents within populated areas.

Single Engine Airtankers (SEATS) - Due to the limited nature of SEAT operations, flights beyond 50 n.m. radius from the support facility may not be practical.

Leadplane (LP), Aerial Supervision Module (ASM) and Air Attack (AA).

Definitions:
Leadplane (LP): Aircraft with government pilot used to make trial runs over target areas to check wind, smoke conditions, topography and to lead airtankers to targets and supervise their drops.

Lead planes are generally ordered with pilot. However, they may be ordered individually when being supplied from different areas or as relief.

Leadplane pilots are assigned an alphanumeric designation which is prefaced with their home region number (eg. lead 5-1 (Region 5, lead pilot #1). The pilot names for these designations can be found in the NMG.

The Leadplanes - airplane are referred to by their "N" number.

Air Attack (AA): Aircraft used for the Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS).

Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS) is responsible for coordinating aircraft/ground operations on an incident. On large incidents the ATGS works for the Air Operations Branch Director. This person is airborne during aircraft operations.

Aerial Supervision Module (ASM) - this is an aircraft with 2 people, the pilot being Leadplane qualified and the passenger being ATGS qualified. This unit is capable of performing both jobs (L/P & ATGS)

Requests for Leadplanes, ASM and Air Attacks are placed with through dispatch channels or (as applicable) with vendors. Factors to consider when dispatching / requesting these are:

- Availability - Aircraft availability within DRC and the GA
- Distance - to the incident.
- Pilot - flight hour and duty limitations.
- Govt. owned or CWN aircraft availability and cost-efficiency.
- Mandatory days off or aircraft maintenance.

Pilot Regulation Reminders:

- **can not exceed 8 hours flight time/day**
- **Allowed to be on duty 14 hours a day**
- **Must have 10 hours uninterrupted rest**
  (30 min. drive time to/from work not considered duty time)
- can not exceed 42 hours in 6 consecutive days
- if 36 or more hours in 6 consecutive days, pilot must take a day off.
- Days off -1 day in 7 days OR 2 days in 14 days (mandatory)

Helicopters

HELICOPTERS ARE LIMITED TO VISUAL FLIGHT RULES (VFR) AND MUST NOT FLY EARLIER THAN CIVIL TWILIGHT IN THE MORNING (30 min before to official sunrise) OR LATER THAN CIVIL TWILIGHT IN THE EVENING (30 min after official sunset).

Selection Factors

In the DRC it is better to order helicopters by the mission rather than by type. Due to the majority of the DRC terrain and elevation, only a few helicopters have the sufficient operational lift capabilities to perform. Some of these Helicopters are T3 - Lama's, Allouettes; T2 - 205++ T1 - Skycrane, Super Puma,

When possible you should try to use the Exclusive Use contract ships first, if response time is a factor then hire the closer CWN with a local module and use it until the contract ship can arrive (for longer duration incidents).

When selecting a helicopter the following factors are to be considered:

- ***Exclusive Use contract Helicopters***. The DOI and DOA have Type 1,2 and 3 helicopters on Exclusive use, they are dispatched with modules.

  Order exclusive use helicopters through established dispatch channels on an Aircraft Order.

- ***Call When Needed Helicopters (CWN).***
  Order a CWN helicopter on an aircraft order and the module on an overhead order. They must marry up **PRIOR** to arriving at an incident. Record the Aircraft request number on the Overhead order and the Overhead request number on the aircraft order. The Aircraft and Overhead desks must work together to ensure the appropriate module has been ordered.

  T1 CWN helicopters must be ordered through NIC. Also, DRC must contact NIC (through RMC)for approval before reassigning any CWN TI to another incident.

  The DRC area has *New Air Helicopters* located in Durango, for a close CWN.

Order a CWN helicopter on an aircraft order and the module on an overhead order. They must marry up **PRIOR** to arriving at an incident.

RMA Helicopter Ordering Guide Help Sheet

Type = Type of Helicopter by ICS Type I, II or III (1,2,3 on spreadsheet).

Make/Model - Self-Explanatory.

HOGE (Hover Out of Ground Effect) @ 8000' = This is the average payload in pounds that the model helicopter can carry at 8000' elevation with a temperature of 25 degrees Celsius, (77 degrees Fahrenheit).

Passenger Capability @ 8000' = The number of passengers on average the model ship can carry at 8000' elevation, out of ground effect.

Module needed Standard = The Manager and crew needed as a module if the ship is a standard category helicopter.

Module needed Restricted = Only a Manager, no crewpersons, required on all restricted category helicopters.

Bucket gallons @ 8000' = The number of gallons on average the model helicopter can carry at 8000' elevation.

An IC or dispatch will put Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR) (FAR 91.137) in place for larger extended incidents.

ELECTRONIC SAFECOM address is http://www.safecom.gov/

Good information
http://www.oas.gov/oassafty/

Communicate – Tell aircraft when your "on the line, off the line" and visa versa.

Begin communicating early "I hear you, your just over the ridge, south of me", I see you to the north I'm at your 3:00"

Aircraft terms--------

Explain where the heel is – common understanding of where the heel of the fire is.
Use terms - Heel, right flank, left flank, head

Terms:
Helicopters use the clock.

Looking at the helicopter imaging you're the pilot say I'm at your 1:00
Out your right door' At your left door; nose, tail.
Or roll right, roll left.

Durango Dispatch (DRC) Aviation Standard Operating Procedures & Recon Flights

The Durango Airtanker Base is located just east of the main terminal at the Durango LaPlata Airport (DRO). Airtanker Base Manager is Ed McCaw.

***Address*:** 100 CR 309 A, Ignacio CO 81137
***Phone*:** 970-375-3322
Fax: 970-382-8061

- A National Contract Type 2 helicopter and crew is also based at the DRO ATB.
- Other DRC area aircraft contracts are 2 – Type 3 helicopters; MVP at Ft Lewis Helibase outside Hesperus and UMA has one out of Towaoc.

Other Airports normally utilized within the DRC area are: Cortez (CEZ), Animas Air Park (00C) and Pagosa Springs, Stevens Field (2V1).

DRC areas primary Helispots and Helibases.

TRIMBLE…… 37' 23’ 28” x 107' 50’31”
VALLECITO……. 37' 25’40” x 107' 33’17”

PIEDRA …… 37' 14’13” x 107' 20’25”
River at the gravel pit- 1 mile North of Hwy 160
HAZARD: POWERLINES ACROSS CANYON IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF GRAVEL PIT

BAYFIELD. . …… 37' 13’39” x 107' 23’04”
Mesa by Elementary School

SOUTHERN UTE AGENCY
Ignacio Canyon Helibase …… 37' 6’55” x 107' 23’04”
Capote Lake Helibase…… 37' 12’17” x 107' 15’32”

UTE MOUNTAIN AGENCY
Towaoc Helibase…… 37' 11’53” x 108' 43’45”
In Towaoc, by graveyard and behind Education Building.

MESA VERDE PARK
Chapin Mesa Helibase …… 37' 09’30” x 108' 29’03”
Ft Lewis Helibase (Hesperus) ..... 37' 13’56” x 108' 05’05”

DURANGO
La Plata Airport – Helibase & *Airtanker Base* 37 ' 09’06” x 107 ' 45’12”
Las Animas Airport – Helibase …… 37 ' 12’12” x 107 ' 52’12”

PAGOSA SPRINGS
Stevens Field…… 37 ' 16’42” x 107 ' 03’24”

AVIATION INFORMATION AND FREQUENCIES

Additional frequencies can be ordered on an Aircraft Resource Order through established dispatch channels to the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC). Additional AM frequencies may be obtained thru FAA on a temporary basis. Additional FM frequencies may be obtained thru FCC on a temporary basis.

Area Frequency Coordinator will be assigned by the Area Fire Coordinator if deemed necessary.

FAA Temporary Towers can be ordered on an Aircraft Resource Order through established dispatch channels with the National Interagency Coordination Center.

AIR GAURD…….168.625
Continuous monitoring of the Air Guard Frequency, 168.625 is required of all tactical aircraft and dispatch centers.
This frequency is limited to **emergency** air-to-air or air-to-ground communications, as an initial contact frequency when no other contact frequency is available, as a means of recalling or redirecting aircraft. Transmitters on this frequency should be equipped with **tone 110.9.**

FLIGHT FOLLOWING - AIR NET ……168.650

MULTI-COMM NATURAL RESOURCE FREQUENCY……**122.925**
Available for assignment to communicate with aircraft when coordinating forestry management and fire suppression, fish and game management and protection, and environmental monitoring and protection.

NATIONAL AIRTANKER BASE FREQUENCY…….. 123.975

AVIATION FIREFIGHTING RESOURCES TRANSPONDER CODE is ……1255
(Aircraft should use this when traveling point to point on fire assignments.)

All LATITUDES AND LONGITUDES will be communicated in Degrees, Minutes, Seconds
(Note: Hundredth can be converted to seconds by multiplying by 60.)

2006 DRC AERIAL OBSERVER RADIO FREQUENCIES

CHANNEL	RECEIVE	TRANSMIT	TONE	LOCATION
1	**168.650**	**168.650**	**-**	**Nat'l Flight Following**
2	**168.625**	**168.625**		**Nat'l Air Guard**
3	**169.925**	**169.925**	**110.9**	**FS East Net**
4	169.925	170.525	156.7	FS Oakbrush Rptr
5	169.925	170.525	167.9	FS Pargin Rptr
6	169.925	170.525	103.5	FS Devil Mt Rptr
7	169.925	170.525	146.2	FS Grassy Rptr
8	169.925	170.525	123.0	FS Kennebec Rptr
9	**171.500**	**171.500**	**110.9**	**FS West Net**
10	171.500	164.9375	110.9	FS Goodman Rptr
11	171.500	164.9375	131.8	FS Menefee Rptr
12	171.500	164.9375	123.0	FS Benchmark Rptr
13	**172.750**	**172.750**	**-**	**SUA Primary**
14	172.750	171.625	103.5	SUA Spring Creek Rptr
15	172.750	171.625	141.3	SUA Sandoval Rptr
16	**172.450**	**172.450**	**-**	**UMA Primary**
17	172.450	170.100	103.5	UMA Hermano
18	**170.050**	**170.050**	**-**	**MVP Primary**
19	**172.500**	**166.900**	**162.2**	**MVP Park Fire Rptr**
20	**OPEN**			
11	**170.025**	**166.825**	**192.8**	**BLM Oakbrush Rptr**
22	170.025	166.825	186.2	BLM Abajo Rptr (Montrose Dc Relay Only)
23	**172.275**	**172.275**	**-**	**DRC Air-Ground (Primary)**
24	172.325	172.325		DRC Air-Ground (2^{nd})
25	**126.275**	**126.275**	**-**	**DRC Air To Air**

INITIAL ATTACK ZONE AREAS AND FREQUENCIES

Air Attack Frequency Assignments - Each state has been broken into zones by the national frequency coordinator these zones are coordinated with the rest of the nations frequency assignments. Each zone has two pre-identified Air Attack frequencies (1 Air-to-air and 1 Air to Ground.)
Additional frequencies are available by contacting the Communication Duty Officer at 208-387-5644 or 5749. **(Order through established dispatch channels.)**

2006 Initial Attack Frequencies only

The following are the most common used Initial Attack frequencies in relation to Durango Dispatch Center and the Rocky Mountain Area. These frequencies are to be used for Initial Attack operations only and are not to be used for large incidents or everyday common use.

Location	Air-Air Freq.	Air–Grnd. Freq. 1st	Air–Grnd. Freq. 2nd
CO 1 - Craig	118.725	171.550	172.375
CO 2 - Grand Junction	126.775	172.275	172.325
CO 3 - Montrose	126.475	171.550	172.375
CO 4 - Durango	**126.275**	**172.275**	**172.325**
CO 5 - Ft Collins	127.325	172.325	172.275
CO 6 - Pueblo	126.025	172.475	172.225
NM - Santa Fe	119.425	166.6875	
NM - Taos (FRM)	120.125	171.425	
NM - Taos East	118.975	171.425	
NM - ABQ West	118.775	169.150	
UT4 - Moab	124.075	172.325	171.575

DRC Basic Aviation Standard Operating Procedure's (SOPs)

ALL operating aircraft will monitor Air Guard 168.625.

Flight Following within the DRC area should be done on designated unit frequencies and not on National Flight Follow (168.650). Use 168.650 only if unable to make contact with DRC on unit frequencies.

DRC area aircraft will not enter TFR areas without prior contact and authorization from the incidents Air Support unit.

DRC will continuously update all airborne aviation resources, as relevant, with additional information about new starts, incidents, ground contacts, incoming aviation resources, and weather.

DRC will notify all aviation resources prior to take-off or entering the DRC area of all pertinent TFR's and air-air and air-ground frequencies being used.

South of Latitude 37 North, it is in New Mexico.
DRC aircraft will not cross the CO/NM state line without first contacting DRC who will contact the appropriate NM dispatch center to confirm that they have no other air resources in the area. The mutually agreed CO/NM established border frequency to monitor is 122.925.

Be aware, the DRC area does have an active Civil Air Patrol . CAP is normally active in the early morning hours and does head toward smokes.

All of the DRC units' frequencies are programmed into the dispatch consoles.
DRC does not have Air-Air, Air-Ground or work channels in dispatch consoles.

RECONS
DRC will contact all the unit FMO/AFMO's (FDO) to inquire as to whether they want a recon flight for the following day(s).

On the day of the flight DRC will:

- Contact all the unit FDO's to get an update on any specific areas they would like the observer to look at beyond a general recon of their unit.

- Meet with or contact the observer and update them on the prior days, current and expected fire and weather situation. This will be verbally and visually (if possible). The observer will be briefed on:
  - weather
  - a lightning map of current and previous days strike history (faxed or handed)
  - other air resources working within the area
  - a list of all local incidents, their status, location, and ground contacts
  - all frequencies and TFR's within the DRC area and their locations
  - a list of available aerial resources (airtankers, lead planes, air attacks, helicopters, smokejumpers) within the DRC and RMA areas.

The observer will:

- Flight follows with DRC using standard national flight following requirements. 15 min. check-ins, course change, etc

- Prior to take-off, phone DRC to notify us you are about to take off and a general flight plan. DRC will notify observer of any last minute changes.

- As soon after takeoff as possible, confirm radio contact with DRC, (Normally done on Forest Primary (Smelter)) notify DRC of Number of Souls on Board (SOB), Number of hours of Fuel on Board (FOB), a general flight plan and your heading.

- Check-in will consist of:
  - if over an incident with local flight follow occurring – 30 min routine check-in for updates and Status Check. (i.e., "Ops Normal")
    (Local Flight following locally the ground units must confirm positive contact direct with DRC)
  - if moving - 15 min routine check-in, current Lat Long, heading (degrees), geographic feature (e.g., over Mesa Verde NP), general flight plan (going to head to the South end of Sleeping Ute).

- Recons will operate on the frequency used by the unit they are observing (i.e., UMA, SUA, Dolores (forest primary), etc). Upon entering a unit's area, observers will make contact with the unit FDO.

- Over incidents, observers will make ground contact with the IC. *(Normally on the DRC area Primary Air-Ground frequency.)*

- Prior to ending a Recon, notify DRC for any last requests.

- Just prior to Landing, notify DRC that you are at "--- airport about to land".

- Once safely on the ground, Notify DRC via radio or ASAP by land line.

Smoke / Incident Response

Smokes – notify DRC via the radio on the applicable unit's frequency that you have spotted a smoke. Provide DRC with a Fire Size-up (see Initial Response Action form). If possible brief the unit FDO directly as requested. DRC will confirm/acknowledge contact with the unit FDO or make appropriate decisions as necessary.

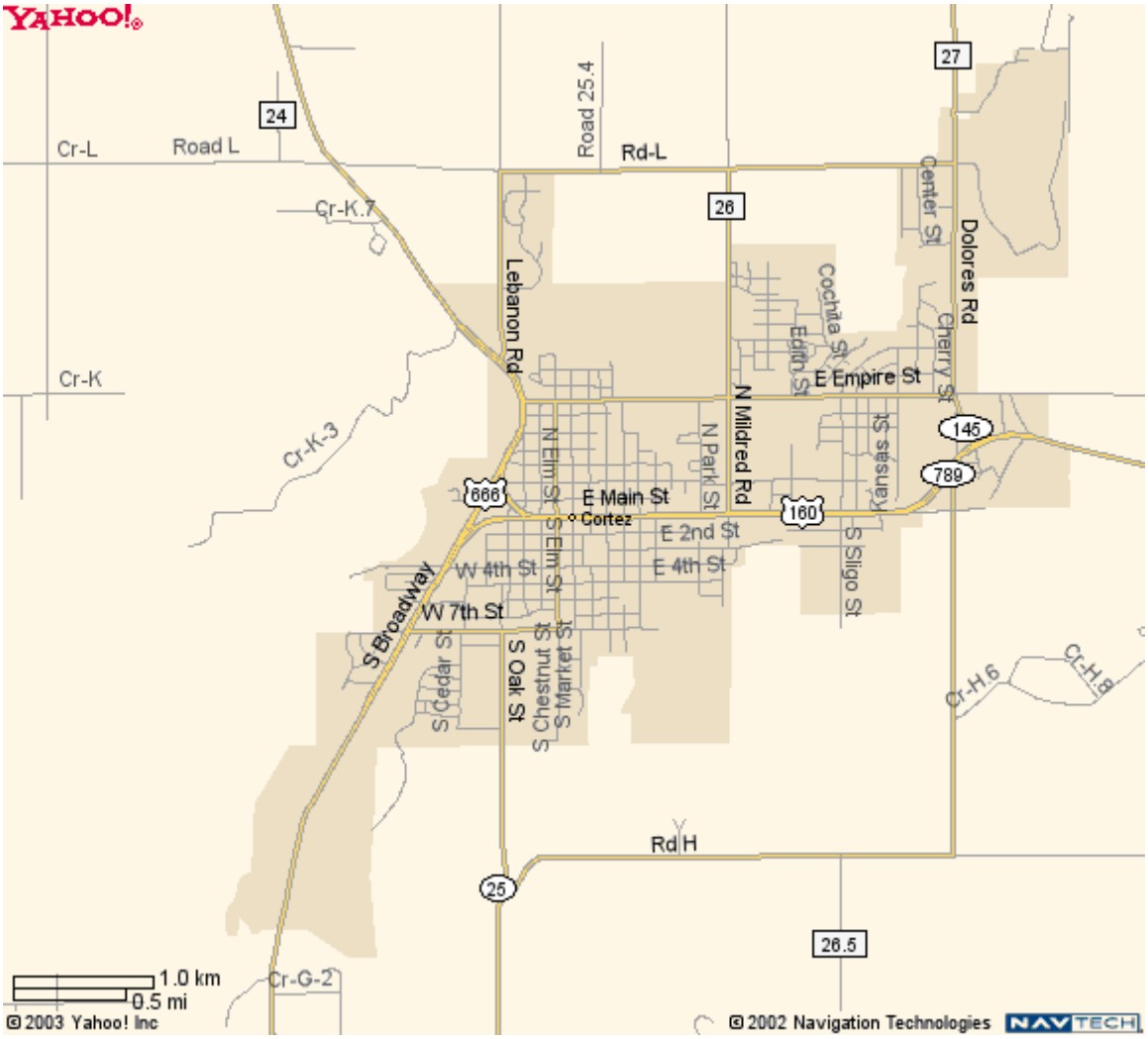
Incidents – notify DRC of location and contact with ground forces to see if you can be of assistance.

Call Signs

Standard Call Signs for Recon and Air Attack working within the DRC Area are:
Recons – Durango Recon (DR) (if we have 2 they would be, DR East and DR West)
Air Attack - Durango Air Attack
"*Incident Name"* Air Attack

CORTEZ MEALS – 12/06/05

CORTEZ:



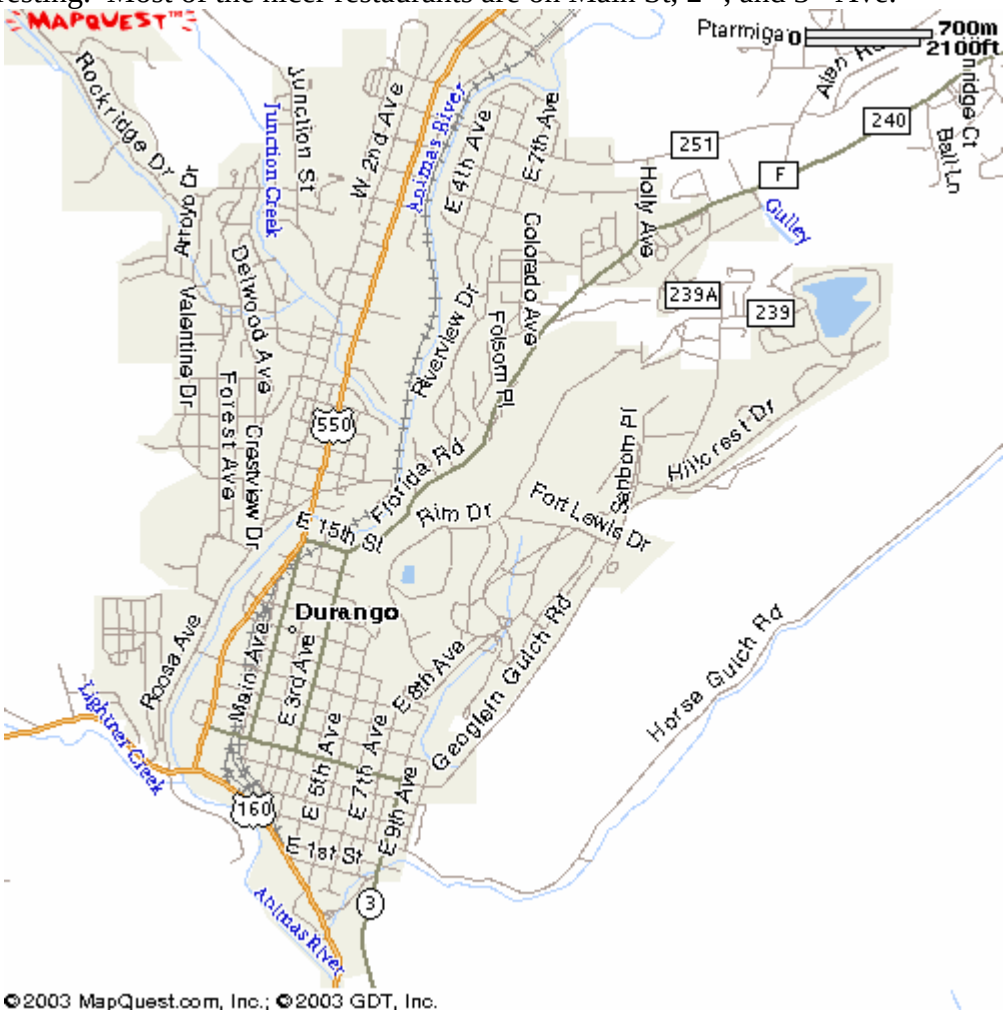
Note: US Hwy 666 is now US Hwy 491.

Restaurants in Cortez

Anasazi Inn	**640 South Broadway**	**565-9617**
Dry Dock	**200 West Main Street**	**564-9404**
Nero's	**303 West Main Street**	**565-7366**
Fiesta Mexicaca	**430 North Hiway 145 (Dolores Hiway)**	**565-4267**
Franciscas	**125 East Main Street**	**565-4093**
Shiloh Steakhouse	**5 South Veach (front of Wal-Mart)**	**565-6560**
Homesteaders	**45 East Main Street**	**565-6253**
Hong Kong	**332 West Main Street**	**564-8423**
Hunan Chinese	**2707 East Main Street**	**565-0919**

DUIRANGO MEALS – 12/06/05

DURANGO: In Durango itself there are so many places to eat that they can't be listed here, from fast food to high-end sit down restaurants. If you have the time, walk through downtown and pick a place that looks interesting. Most of the nicer restaurants are on Main St, 2nd, and 3rd Ave.



Note: US Hwy 550 between US Hwy 160 and were US Hwy 550 joins Main Ave is Camino Del Rio.

Restaurants in Durango

Applebee's	**800 Camino Del Rio**	**259-5850**
CJs	**810 East Collage Ave**	**375-0117**
Denny's	**666 Camino Del Rio**	**247-1512**
Fiesta Mexicana	**2850 Main Ave**	**375-2492**
Gazpacho's	**431 East 2nd Ave**	**259-9494**
Mama's Boy	**Corner of 27th & Main**	**247-0060**
Christina's	**3416 Main**	**382-3844**
Griego's	**2603 Main Ave**	**259-3558**
K-Bob's Steakhouse	**381 S Camino Del Rio**	**247-1940**
Skinny's Grill	**1017 Main Ave**	**382-2500**
Carver's	**1022 Main Ave**	**259-2545**

PAGOSA MEALS – 12/06/05

PAGOSA SPRINGS:

RESTAURANTS IN PAGOSA SPRINGS

Dorothy's	**Pagosa Plaza**	**264-3164**
Hog's Breath	**157 Navajo Trail Dr.**	**731-2626**
Italian Kitchen	**117 Navajo Trail Dr**	**731-5643**
Junction Restaurant	**Hwy. 160 E. of Pagosa**	**264-5729**
Mariani's	**214 Pagosa Street**	**264-1800**
Hunan Chinese	**180 E. Pagosa Street**	**264-5922**
Ramon's Mexican	**56 Tallisman Drive #1**	**731-3012**

Communications (See the DRC Frequency Guide for more detailed information)

2006 DURANGO FIRE DISPATCH AREA FREQUENCIES (SUMMARY)

USFS FREQUENCIES

ABBREVIATION	NAME	RECEIVE	TRANSMIT	TONE	BAND
FS E NET	**FS EAST NET**	169.925	169.925	110.9	N
F MSNY R (FS EAST)	FS MISSIONARY RPTR	169.925	170.525	114.8	N
F KNDL R (FS EAST)	FS KENDALL RPTR	169.925	170.525	131.8	N
F KNBC R (FS EAST)	FS KENNEBEC RPTR	169.925	170.525	123.0	N
F GRSY R (FS EAST)	FS GRASSY RPTR	169.925	170.525	146.2	N
F PRGN R (FS EAST)	FS PARGIN RPTR	169.925	170.525	167.9	N
F TKVL R (FS EAST)	FS TUCKERVILLE RPTR	169.925	170.525	136.5	N
F OBRH R (FS EAST)	FS OAK BRUSH RPTR	169.925	170.525	156.7	N
F WFCK R (FS EAST)	FS WOLF CREEK RPTR	169.925	170.525	151.4	N
F DEVL R (FS EAST)	FS DEVIL RPTR	169.925	170.525	103.5	N
F PGSA B (FS EAST)	FS PAGOSA BASE	169.925	169.925	110.9	N
F BYFD B (FS EAST)	FS BAYFIELD BASE	169.925	169.925	110.9	N
F SMTR B (FS EAST)	FS SMELTER BASE	169.925	169.925	110.9	N
FS W NET	**FS WEST NET**	171.500	171.500	110.9	N
F MNFE R (FS WEST)	FS MENEFEE RPTR	171.500	164.9375	131.8	N
F GDMN R (FS WEST)	FS GOODMAN RPTR	171.500	164.9375	110.9	N
F BNMK R (FS WEST)	FS BENCHMARK RPTR	171.500	164.9375	123.0	N
F ESLT B (FS WEST)	FS ESCALANTE BASE	171.500	171.500	110.9	N
DRC TAC1	DRC TAC 1	163.100	163.100		N
DRC TAC3	DRC TAC 3	164.9875	164.9875		N

BLM FREQUENCIES

ABBREVIATION	NAME	RECEIVE	TRANSMIT	TONE	BAND
BLM NET (DURANGO)	BLM SMELTER BASE	170.025	170.025	156.7	N
B OBRH R (DURANGO)	BLM OAK BRUSH RPTR	170.025	166.825	192.8	N
B ABJO R (MONTROSE)	BLM ABAJO RPTR	170.025	166.825	186.2	N
B NMTN R (MONTROSE)	BLM NORTH MT RPTR	170.025	166.825	179.9	N
B UTMLS R (MONTROSE)	BLM MANTI LA SALLE RPTR	170.025	166.825	167.9	N
DRC TAC 2	DRC TAC 2	168.350	168.350		N

2006 DURANGO FIRE DISPATCH AREA FREQUENCIES (SUMMARY)

SOUTHERN UTE -BIA FREQUENCIES

ABBREVIATION	NAME	RECEIVE	TRANSMIT	TONE	COVERAGE	BAND
SUA SPLX	SUA SIMPLEX	172.750	172.750		LINE OF SIGHT	W
S SPCK R	SUA SPRING CREEK RPTR	172.750	171.625	103.5	LOWER LOS PINOS/ PIEDRA/IGNACIO/6 SHOOTER	W
S SDVL R	SUA SANDOVAL RPTR	172.750	171.625	141.3	NAVAJO RESERVOIR &EAST CHIMNEYROCK	W
S BTBR R	SUA BRIDGE TIMBER RPTR	172.750	171.625	114.8	DURANGO AND SOUTH AND WEST	W

UTE MOUNTAIN UTE-BIA FREQUENCIES

ABBREVIATION	NAME	RECEIVE	TRANSMIT	TONE	COVERAGE	BAND
UMA SPLX	UMA SIMPLEX	172.450	172.450		LINE OF SIGHT	W
U HRMO R	UMA HERMANO RPTR	172.450	170.100	103.5	TOWAOC AND WEST OF MVP	W
U BRKR R	UMA BARKER/RED MESA RPTR.	172.450	170.100	114.8	TOWAOC AND SE OF UMA	W

MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK FREQUENCIES

ABBREVIATION	NAME	RECEIVE	TRANSMIT	TONE	COVERAGE	BAND
MVP SPLX	MVP SIMPLEX	170.050	170.050			W
P ADMN R	MVP ADMIN RPTR	170.050	169.400	103.5	PARK WIDE	W
P PKFIRE R	MVP PARK FIRE	172.500	166.900	162.2	WEST DRC AREA	N

AIR OPERATIONS FREQUENCIES

ABBREVIATION	NAME	RECEIVE	TRANSMIT	TONE	COVERAGE	BAND
						N
NTL FLTF	NATL FLT FOLLOW	168.650	168.650			N
NTL AIRG	NATL AIR GUARD	168.625	168.625	110.9		N
NTL ATB	NATL ATB	123.975	123.975			N
DRC A-G1	DRC A-G1	172.275	172.275		DRC AREA	N
DRC A-G 2	DRC A-G 2	172.325	172.325		DRC AREA	N
DRC A-A 1	DRC A-A 1	126.275	126.275		DRC AREA	N
DRC A-A 2	DRC A-A 2	127.325	127.325			N

2006 DURANGO FIRE DISPATCH AREA FREQUENCIES (SUMMARY)

CSFS & DRC COUNTIES FREQUENCIES

ABBREVIATION	NAME	RECEIVE	TRANSMIT	TONE	BAND
COS	CO State Forest Service	151.340	151.340	---	
AUX PFPD	Pagosa Fire	154.025	156.000	156.7	W
LPX DFRA	Durango Fire Authority	154.445	153.770	RX 131.8 TX	W
LPX UPIN	Upper Pine Fire	154.415	153.950	RX D662 TX	W
LPX FTLM	Fort Lewis Mesa	154.175	154.370	131.8 TX	W
LPX LOSP	Los Pinos	154.055	154.955	131.8 TX	W
D&SNGRR	D&SNGRR	160.860	160.860	---	W
FERN	Fern NET 1	154.280	154.280	---	W
FERN 2	Fern NET 2	154.295	154.295	---	W
FERN 3	Fern NET 3	154.265	154.265	---	W

MISCELLANEOUS FREQUENCIES

ABBREVIATION	NAME	RECEIVE	TRANSMIT	TONE	BAND
NWS GJ	Weather – Grand Junction	162.400	---		W
NWS FMT	Weather – Farmington/Alamosa	162.475	---		W
DRORR	D&SNGRR	160.860	160.860	---	W
CAD SVY	Cadastral Survey	168.400	168.400	---	?
SAR	Search & Rescue	155.160	155.160	---	W
NLEC	Law Enforcement (NLEC)	155.475	155.475	---	W
CSP	CO State Patrol	154.905	154.905	---	W
LPX BRN	Sheriff LAPLATA	155.595	154.785	131.8	W
AUX ACSO	Sheriff ARCHULETA	154.725	155.445	156.7	W
MNX SO	Sheriff&Fire MONTEZUMA (DOL Rptr)	155.115	155.880	127.3	W
	MONTEZUMA COUNTY (CEZ Rptr)	151.295	159.435	162.2	W
	MNX-EMS (PLESENTVIEW RPTR)	156.000	159.390	167.9	W
	MNX-EMS (MENEFEE RPTR)	155.535	159.390	167.9	W
DLX SO	Sheriff DOLORES	158.970	153.935	118.8	W

NATIONALLY DESIGNATED TACTICAL FREQUENCES

118.950	Emergency Air Tactical	N
121.500	Emergency Locator Transmitter	N
119.950	Helibase Air Traffic Control	N
122.925	Air to Air, Air to Ground	N
122.850	Helicopter operations: Air to Air or Air to Ground	N
122.975	Helicopter operations: Air to Air only	N
123.025	Helicopter operations: Air to Air or Air to Ground	N
123.075	Helicopter operations: Air to Air or Air to Ground	N
123.050	Helicopter operations: Air to Ground only	N
123.975	National Air Tanker Bases	N
163.100	Common Use: First come first serve	N
168.625	National Air Guard	N
168.650	National Flight Following (Air Net)	N
167.950	Interagency Air Tactical	N
168.550	ICS Call-up Frequency	N
166.675	Air Tactical	N
169.150	Air Tactical	N
169.200	Air Tactical	N
170.000	Air Tactical	N

BASE STATION AND REPEATER LOCATIONS

The following are a list of the DRC area Bases, their associated Repeaters and the approximate coverage area which are programmed into the Durango Dispatch Consoles.

Locations and Coverage of Repeater sites

NAME	LAT	LONG	ELEV	COVERAGE AREA
FS SMELTER	37°15'43"	107°54'21"	7725	DURANGO AND NORTH, HESPERUS, GRANDVIEW
FS GOODMAN	37°22'46"	108°46'13"	7086	MCPHEE & GLADE, HOVENWEEP, UTE MOUNTAIN
FS BENCHMARK	37°46'02"	108°33'59"	9264	MCPHEE, GLADE, DISAPPOINTMENT
FS MENEFEE	37°19'37"	108°14'57"	8823	HAYCAMP, BURNT RIDGE TWIN LAKES
FS MISSIONARY	37°21'49"	107°46'58"	9860	N 550 CORRIDOR, UPPER HERMOSA, LEMON RESERVOIR
FS KENNEBEC	37°27'06"	108°02'17"	12240	BEAR CRK, SHARKSTOOTH, UPPER HERMOSA, LA PLATA CANYON
FS KENDALL	37°47'44"	107°38'34"	13040	SILVERTON, HIGHLAND MARY, RED MTN, GRENADIERS
FS TUCKERVILLE	37°29'57"	107°27'51"	11640	UPPER PINE & VALLECITO CRKS, EMERALD LAKE, TABLE MTN.
FS GRASSY	37°21'31"	107°33'13"	9480	VALLECITO LAKE, BEAVER MEADOWS, PINE RIVER
FS PARGIN	37°11'51"	107°27'46'	8910	ZABEL CANYON, YELLOW JACKET AREA, CHIMNEY ROCK
FS DEVIL	37°17'04"	107°16'30"	9922	PIEDRA RIVER, CHRIS MTN, CHIMNEY ROCK, BEAVER MEADOWS, PAGOSA
FS OAKBRUSH	37°11'33"	107°05'59"	8623	BUCKLES LAKE, UPPER BLANCO, SOUTH SAN JUANS, TURKEY SPRINGS
FS WOLFCREEK	37°29'29"	106°48'16"	11680	WOLF CRK SKI AREA, UPPER SAN JUAN RIVER, EAST WEMINUCHE WILDERNESS
BLM ABAJO (contact with Montrose Dispatch Center only)	37°50'18"	109°92'16"	+-9000	HOVENWEEP, W UTE MTN, MCELMO CANYON, GLADE, NORTH PINES, DOVE CREEK
BLM SMELTER (contact with Montrose Dispatch Center only)	37°47'44"	107°38'34"	13040	DURANGO AND NORTH, HESPERUS, GRANDVIEW
BLM OAKBRUSH	37°11'33"	107°05'59"	8623	BUCKLES LAKE, UPPER BLANCO, SOUTH OF PAGOSA SPRING
UMA HERMANO	37°13'20"	108°48'39"	8550	TOWAOC AND WEST OF MVP
BARKER DOME	36°59'41"	108°18'02"	7025	TOWAOC AND SE OF UMA
MVP PARK	37°16'49"	108°27'39"	8571	SURROUNDING MVP AREA
SUA SPRING CREEK	37°11'51"	107°27'46"	8910	LOWER LOS PINOS / PIEDRA, IGNACIO, SIX SHOOTER
SUA SANDOVAL	37°06'02"	107°18'04"	8468	NAVAJO RES, CHIMNEY ROCK AND EAST
SUA BRIDGE TIMBER	37°10'12"	107°59'53"	8350	DURANGO AND SOUTH AND WEST

*** ALL FREQUENCIES ARE NARROWBAND UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

INITIAL FIRE SIZE UP Date/Time_____

FIRE NAME _____ **FIRE CODE (s)** _____

I.C.: _____**REPORTED SIZE:** _____ **ACRES:** _____

LAT: _____ **LONG:** _____ **TWNSHP:** _____**RNG:**_____**SEC:**_____

STRUCTURES THREATENED? ___YES ___ NO # AND TYPE_____

- ❑ **Know what your fire is doing at all times.**

SPREAD POTENTIAL

1) Low 2) Moderate 3) High 4) Extreme

CHARACTER OF FIRE

1) Smoldering 3) Running 5) Torching 7) Crown/Spotting
2) Creeping 4) Spotting 6) Crowning 8) Erratic

SLOPE AT ORIGIN/WHERE CURRENTLY BURNING

1) 0-25% 2) 26-40% 3) 41-55% 4) 55-75% 5) 76+%

ASPECT

0) Flat 2) NE 4) SE 6) SW 8) NW
1) North 3) East 5) South 7) West 9) Ridgetop

POSITION ON SLOPE

1) Ridgetop 4) Middle 1/3 slope 7) Valley
2) Saddle 5) Lower 1/3 slope 8) Mesa/Plateau
3) Upper 1/3 slope 6) Canyon bottom 9) Flat or rolling

FUEL TYPE

1) Grass 4) Pinyon/Juniper 7) Aspen
2) Grass/brush 5) Ponderosa pine 8) Logging/Thinning Slash
3) Oak brush 6) Spruce/fir 9) Other (specify)

- ❑ Keep informed on fire weather conditions and obtain forecasts.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

1) Clear 4) T-Storms in area 7) Intermittent showers
2) Scattered clouds 5) Lightning 8) Heavy showers
3) Building cumulus 6) Overcast

WIND DIRECTION _____ ***SPEED*** _____ ***mph***

WIND DIR/TOPOGRAPHY: __Down Canyon __ Up Canyon___Down Slope___Up Slope ___Erratic

RESISTANCE TO CONTROL: _____Low _____ Moderate _____High _____Extreme

- ❑ **Initiate all actions based on current and expected fire behavior.**

PERSONNEL/EQUIPMENT/AIRCRAFT NEEDS – Enter number needed next to each type:

_____Helicopter ____Smokejumper Load _____Type 5 Engine
_____Airtanker-Large _____Type 1 Crew _____Type 6 Engine
_____Airtanker-Small _____Type 2 Crew _____Type 7 Engine
_____Air Tactical Aircraft _____Type 3 Crew _____Dozer
_____Lead Plane _____Type 4 Engine _____Resource Advisor
_____Other _____

Resources on Scene:_____

_____

ESTIMATED CONTAINMENT/CONTROL: _____

Channel/Repeater_____

- ❑ Post lookouts in potentially hazardous situations.
- ❑ Establish safety zones and escape routes for everyone and make sure they are known.

NOW ENGAGE THE FIRE AND THEN:

- ❑ Be Alert, Keep Calm, Think Clearly, Act Decisively
- ❑ Maintain control at all times.
- ❑ Give clear instructions and be sure they are understood.
- ❑ Remain in communication with your crewmembers, supervisors, and adjoining forces.
- ❑ Fight fire aggressively but provide for safety first.

NOTES:

FINAL FIRE INFORMATION

CAUSE

1) Lightning	4) Debris burning	7) Railroads
2) Campfire	5) Arson	8) Children
3) Smoking	6) Equipment use	9) Other_____

RESOURCES ON SCENE (Show how many of each type

____Engines	_____Helicopters	____Equipment
____Handcrews	_____Loads of Retardant	____Other (explain)

ELEVATION (Point of Origin)

0) 0-500	2) 1501-2500	4) 3501-4500	6) 5501-6500	8) 7501-8500
1) 501-1500	3) 2501-3500	5) 4501-5500	7) 6501-7500	9) 8501

ACTUAL CONTAINMENT

DATE_____ TIME_____ ACRES_____

ACTUAL CONTROL

DATE_____ TIME_____ ACRES_____

OUT

DATE_____ TIME_____ ACRES_____

ACRES BURNED BY OWNERSHIP

1) BIA_____	3) FWS_____	5) PRIVATE_____	7) USFS_____
2) BLM_____	4) NPS_____	6) STATE_____	8) OTHER_____

The "17" Watch Out Situations are listed below

Check all that apply and briefly describe mitigation measures taken.

- ☐ You are in country you have not seen in daylight.
- ☐ You are constructing line without a safe anchor point.
- ☐ You are attempting a frontal assault on a fire.
- ☐ There is unburned fuel between you and the fire.
- ☐ You are building fireline downhill with fire below
- ☐ You are on a hillside where rolling material can ignite fuel below.
- ☐ The weather is getting hotter and drier.
- ☐ The wind increases and/or changes direction.
- ☐ You are getting frequent spot fires across the line.
- ☐ The terrain and fuels make escape to safety zones difficult.
- ☐ You feel like taking a nap near the fireline.
- ☐ You are unfamiliar with local factors influencing fire behavior.
- ☐ You are working in an area where numerous snaps and hazard trees are present.
- ☐ The management of the fire is transitioning.
- ☐ You are driving when fatigued and/or in conditions where darkness, dust and/or smoke make visibility difficult.
- ☐ The fire is in the urban interface.
- ☐ You are significantly exceeded the 2:1 work/rest ratio or you have been operating at the 2:1 ratio for an extended period.

NOTES